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COMICS IMPLOSION!

photos by Dan Zubkoff (UP)

JOSH FREUND, TEAM MEMBER, RACING IN THE C.A.R.T. SERIES.

Co-op brings car to campus

by Robin Platts

A small crowd gathered around a blue Honda Civic in parking lot #2 at noon last Thursday, Jan. 29. A dozen or so people, mostly local media and students' society reps, loitered expectantly near the unremarkable-looking vehicle. Just after noon, a well-dressed man appeared from behind a bush. UVic president David Turpin had arrived to speak at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the first UVic vehicle in the Victoria Car Share Co-operative (VCSC) fleet.

"This is just one example of how we can decrease the number of trips coming to campus each day," said Turpin. "This is a wonderful opportunity for UVic to engage in environmentally friendly access to campus."

The non-profit cooperative began in 1997, and now has 70 members city-wide. The UVic car is its fifth vehicle.

"It's an example of thinking globally but acting locally," said Eric Kaye, chair of the VCSC board. "I hope this is just the beginning at UVic, that we'll eventually have many (shared) cars on campus."

"We're really excited to expand the co-op to campus," said Sarah Webb, student representative for the VCSC, before cutting the ribbon at the ceremony. "We've seen a huge increase in interest on campus."

Webb encouraged anyone interested in the club to join, saying it provides a great opportunity for students in residence or cluster housing and is a viable alternative for families considering buying a second vehicle. Co-op members buy a $400 share to join the organization (refundable when they leave), pay usage fees and share insurance and maintenance costs.

"I'm excited," Webb said. "I think this is a great opportunity for students and faculty."

Webb hopes the vehicle will be just the beginning for car-sharing on campus.

"I think there's a real possibility to expand the fleet on campus and create partnerships with the university and transit to make that a reality," she said.

For more information on the VCSC, visit http://vvv.com/~carshare/

photo by Jeffrey Weston

David Turpin and Sarah Webb discuss car pooling to senate meetings.

Working forests proposal gets chewed up by critics

by Patrick White

In his January 23rd statement accompanying the working forest discussion paper, Minister of Sustainable Resource Management Stan Hagen said, "I'm sending a message to the investment community that British Columbia is open for business and that we're bringing certainty to the land base."

According to industry workers and activists, certainty over forest resources remains in Victoria and the headquarters of the province's largest forestry companies, not with working families and their communities.

The discussion paper would see 48 per cent of B.C.'s land base set aside for industrial interests. Ken Wu, executive director of the Victoria chapter of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee, said, "This is the most sweeping anti-environmental forestry legislation in B.C.'s history. It gives corporate certainty to public lands and has taken away social certainty."

For a number of years the divergent voices of First Nations chiefs, community coalitions, academics and unions have joined in calling for increased community involvement in the allocation of resource extraction. A number of these groups formed the BC Coalition for Sustainable Forest Solutions, which will hold public meetings in forestry towns across B.C. to discuss alternatives to Liberal forest policy.

Hazleton mayor and coalition member Alice Maitland said, "Mill and office closures, raw log exports and a softwood sell-out are a company wish-list – not a public forest policy. Rural communities are hurting, but the government's forest changes show Victoria's not listening. So, we're planning our own legislation to build sustainable forest communities and solve the softwood dispute."

The government is open about whose interests their forest policies represent. When Minister of Forests Mike de Jong introduced his results-based forest practices code in November of last year, representatives from B.C.'s large forest corporations were present to applaud while representatives of First Nations, community, environmental and other advocacy groups were absent.

During the 2000 provincial election campaign, TimberWest, Weyerhauser and Interfor made up three of the top five donors to the Liberal campaign.

The discussion paper was created by the Ministry for Sustainable Development headed by Hagen, the same minister who has come under fire in recent weeks for taking on the aquaculture portfolio while denying he had any knowledge that aquaculture corporations were the largest donors to his election campaign.

Though the working forest discussion paper opens up 48 per cent of B.C.'s land to industry, it gives final decision over which companies are awarded land allotments to Hagen.

Forestry workers, too, have expressed dissatisfaction with Liberal forest policy. "Right now," said Jeff Girard, a worker at Pacific Custom Log Sort in Coquitlam, "the government ensures we keep a certain level of wood coming through the sort. I think more corporate control is going to mean sometimes us having not enough guys to handle all the wood coming through and other times having to lay-off guys for long periods depending on the price of wood."

Dave Stephen, owner of Stephen Brothers Contracting, a small logging and silviculture operation in Vanderhoof said, "I'm not sure where this'll lead. It'll be balls to the walls for a while, but we're going to have to keep moving north to find wood."

Public consultation on the discussion paper can be received solely through the ministry website at http://srmwww.gov.bc.ca/rmd/workingforest/ until March 14.

The government has been criticized by forestry groups for its electronic consultation in the past. Kevin W. Davie, chairman of the Sunshine Coast Forest Coalition, an association of Sunshine Coast forest companies, said of online working forest consultation, "The timeframe afforded to review this important issue is far too short... The method of submitting comments is unacceptable. Proper submission papers based on science and economic facts have been seconded to unsubstantiated emotion, rhetoric and fear via the Internet."

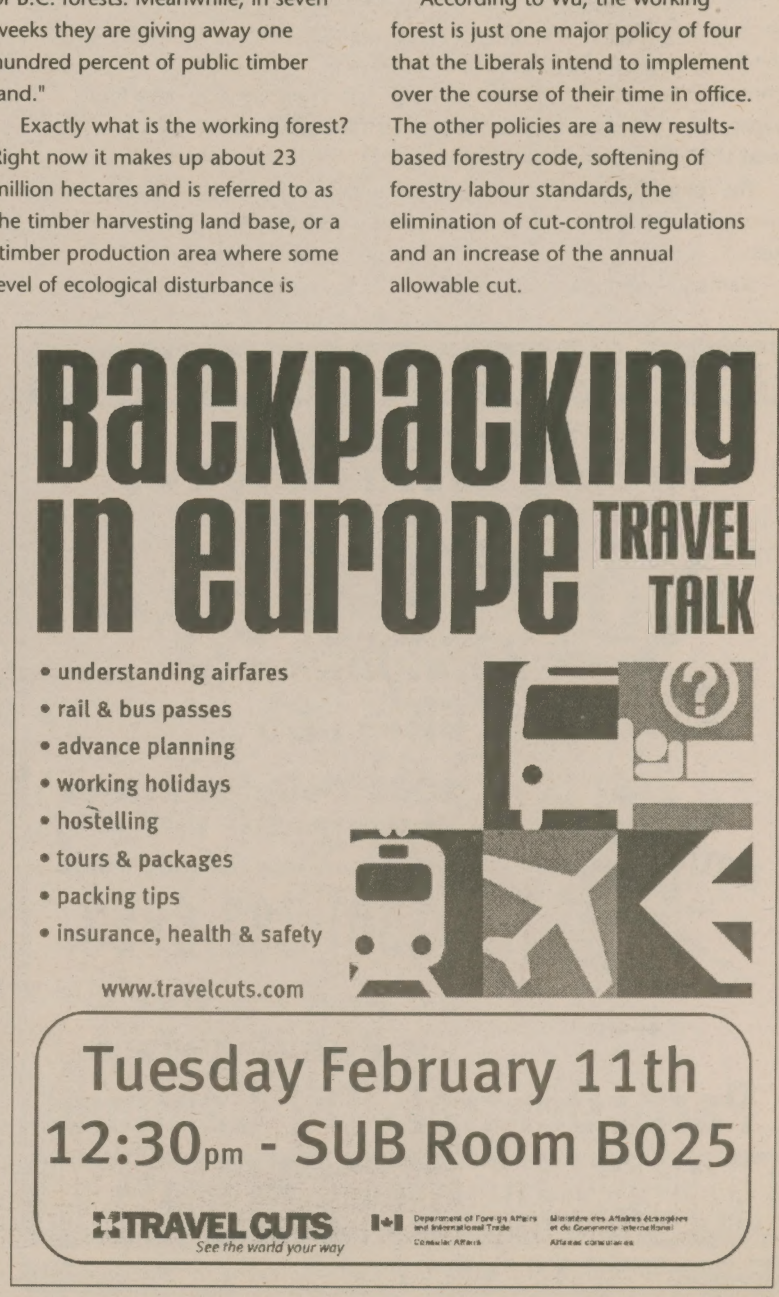
Wu said, "It's a very short time period. There is seven weeks to comment and no public hearings. It took a decade and thousands of hours to protect from three to eight per cent of B.C. forests. Meanwhile, in seven weeks they are giving away one hundred percent of public timber land."

Exactly what is the working forest? Right now it makes up about 23 million hectares and is referred to as the timber harvesting land base, or a "timber production area where some level of ecological disturbance is acceptable, as long as it is reasonable." That is according to a book entitled *The Working Forest*, produced by I.K. Barber, founder and former chairman of Slocan Forest Products.

The new working forest will almost double the area Mr. Barber had to work with. In the discussion paper, the new working forest is defined as "all Crown forest land in the province that is outside of protected areas and parks," which opens an additional 22 million hectares of forested land to industry.

Passage of legislation based on the discussion paper would ensure that 48 per cent of B.C.'s land base is set aside for industrial interests. Removal of any piece of this land base for parks or protected areas would result in an equivalent addition to the industrial base from another park or protected area.

According to Wu, the working forest is just one major policy of four that the Liberals intend to implement over the course of their time in office. The other policies are a new results-based forestry code, softening of forestry labour standards, the elimination of cut-control regulations and an increase of the annual allowable cut.



Anti-poverty activists and police clash

by Zoë Bake-Paterson

Confusion broke out in Chinatown Sunday as activists attending the Assembly to End Poverty confronted Victoria police over the arrest of a local homeless man.

The dispute, which began mid-afternoon, led to three arrests and pepper spraying, just before the Chinese New Year parade began on Fisgard St. Another man was later arrested for causing a distrubance outside of the police station where a jail solidarity action was being held for those arrested.

Sergeant George Chong said the situation began when a police member was dispatched to Streetlink emergency shelter to arrest an "unwanted gentleman who was intoxicated."

The activists involved were on a break from the conference, which was in the process of discussing the harassment that many poor people face in B.C., among other issues.

"We were lining up for lunch when someone came in and said there's a homeless man getting arrested and maybe we should check it out," said Katie Sugrue, 18, a member of Victoria Anti-Poverty Coalition (APOV) and one of those arrested during the altercation. "I've experienced a lot of harassment for being poor too, so I went."

About 100 people left the anti-poverty assembly and flooded Fisgard St. The large group then surrounded the police car, which held the homeless man being arrested.

"APOV took it upon their belief or action to assist this person not knowing him at all," said Chong. "We're all for peaceful protests, but when they start pushing and kicking police it's another matter."

Chong said the female officer arresting the homeless man was shoved and kicked by the protesters before she called for backup.

Sugrue, who was one of the three "female antagonizers" arrested, said she was pushed by police and that she didn't kick anyone.

"I was defensive because of my feminist viewpoint, I guess – I don't like to be pushed around," she said.

The police were forced to use pepper spray, said Chong, because protesters jumped on the backs of police officers.

People inside a coffee shop across the street said the confrontation, which lasted about 15 minutes, looked like a mosh-pit on the street. The crowd consisted of about 150 activists, 16 police and many local civilians out to watch the Chinese New Year's parade.

"It all happened before I had a chance to react," said Sugrue.

Trees and pavement jostle for popularity

by Sally Powis

UVic students say they are against losing parking spaces within Ring Road.

In the wake of a proposed moratorium on cutting down campus wooded areas, 17 out of 20 students interviewed last week suggested the university should build up on facilities that already exist, or erect new buildings with parkades in the bottom to make room for increased enrolment, rather than build on parking spaces.

"Finding a parking space here is already hell," said Ryan Cooney, a first-year English student. "Why not leave the lots intact, and build overtop of them?" Unless he wants to wake up at 5 a.m. to catch the bus from Sooke, Cooney said he has no alternative but to drive to school.

Parking lots within Ring Road are now considered temporary, as they will become new building locations, according to the Draft Campus Development Plan.

Though some students suggested putting a cap on enrolment, UVic will expand its number of educational facilities in the coming years. The current student body exceeds its limits. The original Campus Plan was designed for a maximum of 10,000 full time equivalent (FTE) students, and there are now over 15,000 enrolled.

A number of students favoured the idea of building parking garages beneath educational facilities. The University of Calgary's art parkade follows a similar design, with the faculty of fine arts built atop a two-story parkade. But the draft campus plan states new buildings must be designed to fit comfortably into the present architectural and landscape context of the campus. The construction of new buildings must also respect the existing campus scale and character, raising no more than three floors from the ground.

"I would only agree with construction on parking lots if absolutely necessary," said Ben Jeffrey, a second-year biology student. "The humanities and social sciences are in desperate need of new facilities." Jeffrey also said he is strongly opposed to a new engineering building being erected. He said the faculty already has the newest facilities, with swipe cards required for access into laboratories.

For sale: Fake McGill degrees offered online

by Danny Fisher, *The McGill Daily*

MONTREAL (CUP)—Fake McGill University diplomas and transcripts are legally sold on the Internet to anyone with $100 and "life experience." And they work.

FantasyDiplomas.com is one online diploma mill that brags about the authentic look of their documents.

"Fantasy Diplomas are ... the same thickness as real university diplomas," the Web site boasts. "Transcripts are printed on genuine university security paper ... from the same supplier as most U.S. colleges and universities."

The company maintains that its fake documents are only novelty items.

"Fantasy Diplomas are not intended to be used for unlawful misrepresentation or fraudulent purposes," the Web site warns.

According to McGill provost and VP academic Luc Vinet, the sale of fake diplomas is completely legal.

"This was brought to our legal counsel's attention a year ago," Vinet said. "It is not likely that what they offer would be analogous to our diplomas. If they are not reproducing our logo, they have not infringed the law."

It is only illegal to use a fake diploma, Vinet said.

"A legal violation would be if someone got the degree and claimed it is a McGill degree. But the crime is on the person," he said.

But for those who wish to live outside the law, online companies like VerificationServices.org offer to verify fake degrees to potential employers.

"Regardless of where you graduated and how you obtained your diploma, we will verify your educational documents," the Web site explains. "Once you've faxed us the diploma or transcript, we'll be able to provide a copy to any verifying party."

While FantasyDiplomas.com claims its novelty documents should not be put towards fraudulent ends, a company representative said their diplomas sometimes land customers employment opportunities.

"We can't guarantee your diploma will be accepted by any employer," said the representative, but added, "customers who couple our printing service with the verification service have been able to obtain better paying jobs."

Testimonials on the VerficationServices.org Web site claim the bogus graduation verification service has been accepted by employers in the past.

"Monday I applied for that job," wrote Scott M., a fake UCLA graduate. "The interviewer said she'd have to verify my diploma. Wednesday I paid for your service, and on Thursday my new boss called to say I had the job!"

Kathleen Donovan is the head of Human Resources at Pfizer, a major U.S. pharmaceutical company. Donovan said that while a fake degree wouldn't land someone a job at Pfizer, it might work at other companies.

"At Pfizer, we have a quite thorough background service that does a thorough employment and education background check," Donovan said. "We verify degrees right with schools ... if they lied on their resumé, or used a fake degree, we would find out, and we wouldn't hire them."

"But I don't speak for every company," she added.

Acting McGill registrar Sylvie Frank said McGill takes precautionary measures to protect against diploma and transcript fraud.

"I think that it is the responsibility of all universities to protect the value of their degrees," she said. "McGill transcripts have certain safety features. They go out on special security paper in sealed envelopes."

But according to FantasyDiplomas.com, so do their fake transcripts.

So far, McGill has not taken any legal action against diploma mills that sell fake McGill documents.

But they could, said Partick Healy, a McGill law professor.

"There could still be all kinds of crimes there, both criminal and civil," Healy said.

In October 2002, Purdue University in Indiana sent a letter to FakeDegrees.com, another online diploma mill, demanding that the company cease producing and selling Purdue Diplomas. The company complied that day.

"If I were McGill, I would send a demand letter," Healy said.

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The end of the Ewok Village? Not quite yet...

by Jeff Andrew

UVic took another tentative baby-step towards ecological protection last Wednesday, Jan. 29, when the Campus Development Committee announced recommendations for a 10-year moratorium on development in campus forests.

"It was recognized that there was huge support for a moratorium on development in the wooded areas on campus," said Sarah Webb, a student representative to the CDC. "It was a collaborative decision based on feedback, consultation and general opinion."

The CDC is currently working on a revised version of the Campus Development Plan, to be released to the public sometime in the next two months. Once approved by the board of governors, the Plan will guide construction of new buildings on campus for the next 15 years.

According to Wednesday's update, the CDC is recommending that a new version of the plan include a 10-year moratorium (i.e. a ban) on development in "an area yet to be fully defined, but generally to include the South Woods, University Gardens, Garry Oak Meadow and Bowker Creek headwaters Special Study Areas." These four areas stretch along the outside of Ring Road, from the Gordon Head/MacKenzie intersection to Parking Lot #1, bordering Mystic Vale behind the cluster housing buildings.

Also recommended is a 10-year freeze on the use of "Building Site Six," representing part of Cunningham Woods (inside Ring Road, behind the Cunningham Building). Finally, there is a recommendation to the president to review the future role and structure of the CDC once the new campus plan has been approved.

Webb, a student senator and former UVSS executive, was optimistic about the announcement.

"I think it's a great move for the university," she said. "It shows initiative, and I hope that it's followed up with restoration projects and financial commitments to staff and the sustainability office."

Tree-sitting activists remain skeptical. Ingmar Lee, an organizer and spokesperson for the sit, said the action will continue until the original demands are met: full legal protection for all of UVic's wilderness areas and the start of restoration projects to ensure the health and vitality of the forests.

"Our demands are clear and reasonable," said Lee. "The university has come close to all those, so we're optimistic. But the sit has got huge momentum right now. We need to get a few more points out of this deal."

Lee is concerned by ambiguous phrases in the announcement such as "an area yet to be fully defined, but generally to include...," and by the lack of protection for all of Cunningham Woods, which may or may not be affected by construction of the new engineering building.

"We can't make a decision based on a press release," said Lee. "There's serious gaps and holes and weasel words in that document. Everyone I've talked to has said 'You'd be a fool to take it (the tree-sit) down' until we get those ironed out."

The CDC is currently examining two possible sites for the new engineering building: on the lawn beside the existing engineering facility and on the parking lot beside Cunnigham Woods. While construction on either site would carry some environmental impact, the use of the parking lot site would require at least a six-metre wide access road to be cut through part of the woods.

"If that site is chosen, which is still to be determined, it would likely involve the removal of some trees," said UVic communications officer Bruce Kilpatrick. "All efforts would be made to minimize impact on the forest."

In response to Lee's concerns over the lack of a fully defined protection area, Kilpatrick stressed the announcement does not represent any concrete, final decisions. Rather, it is simply an update on the direction in which campus development plans are proceeding.

"It's been a couple months since the last opportunity for public consultation," he said. "Rather than leave people hanging, we wanted to let people know that work is being done and feedback is being reviewed and taken into consideration."

The recommendations are the result of public feedback from workshops and open houses held by the CDC last fall. According to Webb, the workshops revealed a strong interest and community support for protecting and maintaining the natural areas and for taking advantage of UVic's potential to be a leader in ecological research and education.

"An overwhelming majority were saying things like 'Why isn't the Garry Oak Meadow* protected?' There's an increased recognition from students, staff and faculty that we should be using our academic knowledge to aid in restoration and education," said Webb.

While it remains to be seen how much impact the tree-sit will have on planning decisions, it does appear that activists are settling in for the long haul. The area is showing signs of, well, development, and now features a support tent, a rain shelter, reams of information on sustainable development and an 'eco-hut' made of logs and fallen branches. There is even talk of building a cedar platform around the base of the old-growth arbutus tree that supports the sit, to protect its root structure and enshrine it as an historic tree.

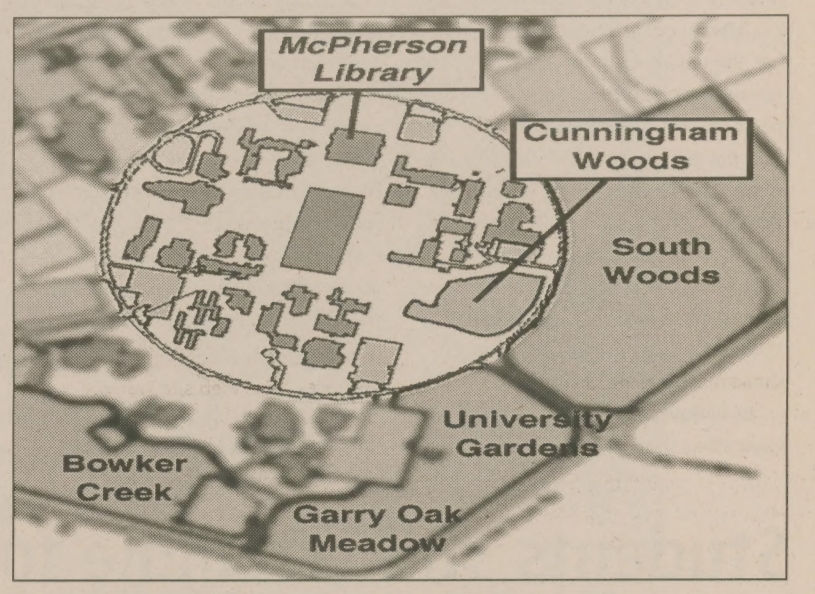
Last Friday, Lee gave an ecology lesson to a group of school children on a field trip from the Oak and Orca School, explaining the different tree species and leading them on an "ivy pull," to remove some of the invasive English Ivy that plagues the area.

"We try to give kids a connection with nature," said teacher Kara Woodcock. "We come up to the university forests a lot, and we wanted to see how people are protecting it."

**Garry Oak Trees can be found on the southwest side of campus near Gordon Head Road. They're incredibly rare, growing only on this part of Vancouver Island and on some of the Gulf Islands. While they were once more prominent here than Douglas Firs, only one per cent of the original number remain standing.*

photo by Jocelyn Beyak

Endor at UVic: Tree-sitters say they won't budge until UVic administration promises forest protection.



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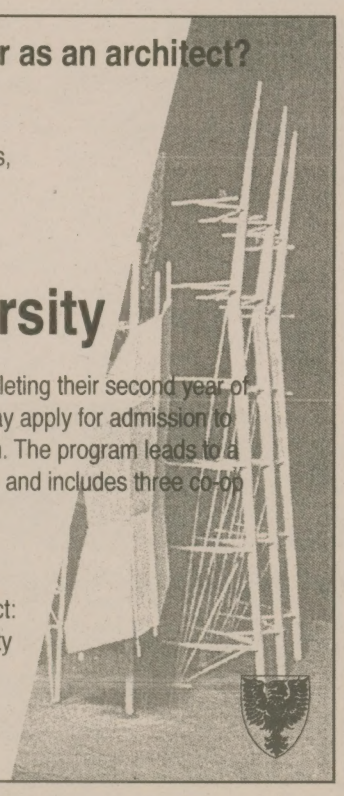

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Forget Matlock: Seniors prepare to rally with students

by Briony Smith

On Tuesday, Feb. 11, seniors and students join to protest the cuts to Pharmacare and tuition fee hikes. The protesters will meet on the lawns outside the legislature building at 1:30 p.m.

Michelle Kinney, chairperson of the UVic Students' Society (UVSS), is the primary organizer for the protest at UVic. She said that the message of the protest is to bring the seemingly dissimilar groups of students and seniors together to show that both suffer greatly from provincial cuts.

As most UVic students know, the BC Liberal government deregulated tuition fees in British Columbia, allowing each post-secondary institution to raise tuition as they see fit. The University of Victoria increased tuition fees by 30 per cent in the summer of 2002, and by March 2003 students will experience another 30 per cent increase.

Kinney said that students' outrage with tuition hikes is mirrored by outcries in the senior community as the Liberal government prepares to cut the elderly's Pharmacare benefits. For example, user fees for drug prescriptions have been increased to $25 per prescription, resulting in more than three quarters of seniors having to pay a substantial amount to obtain their prescription drugs. The only seniors who are exempt from paying these higher user fees are those who pass a means test, which determines a person's income.

In Parksville, Berni Pearce is co-ordinating the seniors who are coming from that town and its environs. Pearce does not support the administration of means tests because the Liberal government hasn't specified what dollar amount is the cut-off that determines whether a person is considered "low-income" or not. She said many people think that the elderly are a rich group of people, but most of them subsist on a fixed or reduced income and 43 per cent of seniors have individual gross incomes of less than $15,000 per year.

Martin Amiabel represents the Old Age Pensioner's Organization members coming from the Campbell River area to protest at the legislature next Tuesday. He said it is ridiculous how expensive it is to obtain a university education these days.

"If you don't have the good fortune of having rich parents, it is impossible to afford accommodation, food costs, and tuition with these crazy tuition hikes."

Amiabel said that, akin to the financial strain students feel, the cuts to Pharmacare will be extremely difficult for seniors. "They have to make a choice: eat or buy their prescription drugs."

When asked why the seniors have joined with students, Pearce said, "There is a responsibility among seniors to foster the well-being of the younger generation." This sentiment is echoed by Amiabel, who said, "If you attack the students, you attack the future. We have to let the government know that enough is enough."

Kinney said this protest is different from protests in the past because "students have seen the second 30 per cent tuition hike, so it's a very important time for students to raise their concerns about accessibility to education."

She added that students have a responsibility to stand with their elders.

"Our seniors have contributed their whole lives to creating a culture that supports opportunities for the youth and creates safety nets for the elderly. Now they are having their safety net taken away and are seeing the future jeopardized by pricing education out of reach for the young," she said.

Last year, almost 3,000 students and supporters gathered on the legislature lawns on Feb. 6 to protest the proposed 30 per cent tuition fee increase at the time. Despite media coverage of this event, the tuition fee increase was implemented as planned three months later. On Feb. 23, 2002, almost 25,000 people rallied at the legislature lawns once more to protest the Liberal government's civil service cuts, opening of public sector union contracts, changes to welfare rules, and deregulation of tuition fees. Premier Gordon Campbell was not even in Victoria at the time, and was allegedly sitting at home and watching the hockey game.

Jude Coates, director of academics for the UVSS, is aware of the shortcomings of the rally as a way of affecting political decisions.

"I don't think [the Liberal government] is open to listening to protest," Coates said. "They've shut down that mode of expression." She says that this way of protesting is "only effective if the protesters are not considered a special interest group, as students are."

Coates suggests that the government listens to people like senior citizens, citing a seniors' protest last November that delayed the introduction of the controversial means test.

Scott Payne, director-at-large for the UVSS, said the students' society was eager to join forces with the seniors due in part to their victory last November. He feels that they also hold influence in protests because, "politicians tend to listen to them because they vote." But he, like Kinney, stresses the similarity between the plight of the province's students and seniors. "They're facing problems with the same source which results in an overall sense of solidarity," Payne said. "It's very exciting for us to join with senior citizen groups to bring these issues to the forefront of people's minds."

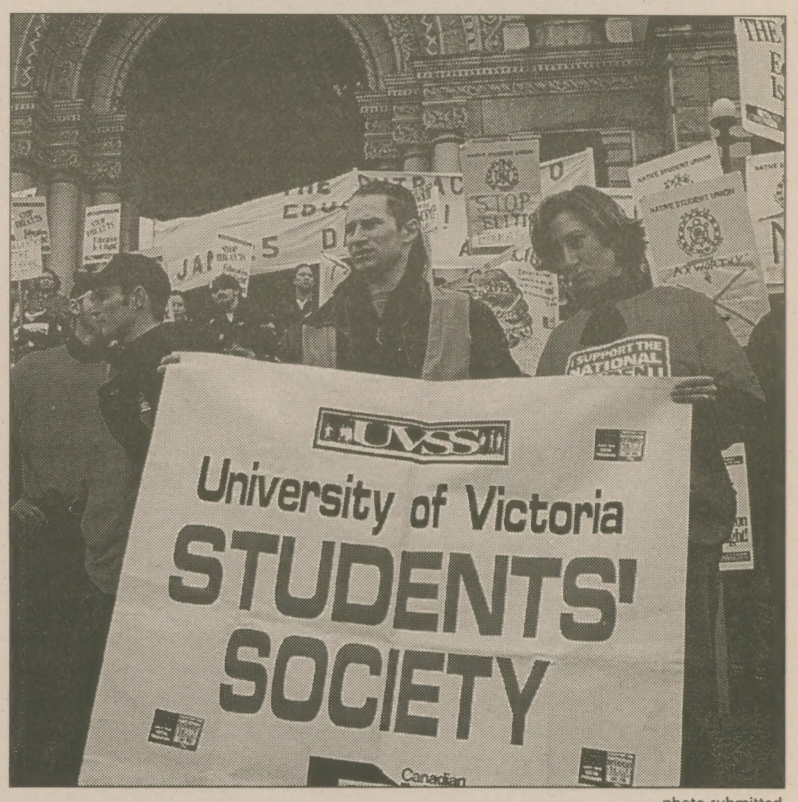

photo submitted

Expect to see scenes like this at the legislature on Feb. 11. And don't forget to set the VCR to tape *Matlock*.

Students still scramble for desks at UVic, with no end in sight

by Ticki Mackenzie

Kelly Hennessey hurries into her English literature class in Clearihue A316 every day, hoping to be lucky enough to find an available desk.

"There are 21 students in my class, but five students have to sit on the floor," said Hennessey. "However, that's no surprise. In three years here, I have had four classes where there wasn't enough desks."

Although most students interviewed this week believe they are getting a good education at UVic, 10 out of 19 students said overcrowded classrooms have compromised their comfort and ability to take notes.

Several students complained that their labs and workshops are very cramped. One student, clearly frustrated, said, "My French lab is very, very crowded. There is room for 12 people to sit comfortably, but there are 18 registered in the class, so you figure it out."

This situation is not only difficult for the students. Michael Cullen, an English professor, has scheduled take-home exams in the past, primarily to relieve stress in the congested classrooms.

"This situation is not new," said Cullen. "I have taught classes in Cornett where students had to sit on the window ledge if they wished to sit for a lecture."

This spring, Cullen's English 145 class has one student who is relegated to the floor, as there are not enough desks.

It seems that a lack of chairs is not the only issue. CIT110 has plenty of adjustable, black office-style chairs, but there are no desks or tables. With clipboards or binders in their arms, students balance their textbooks on their knees while they take notes. Most students in this English 380 class agree there are enough chairs. But with 45 chairs in the room, there is simply no room for tables.

Ron Stevens, head of scheduling for classroom bookings, acknowledges the difficulties he faces each day, juggling limited space with maximum demand. Accommodating this year's 6,991 academic sections into the available classrooms is a challenge, and Stevens admits that some of those sections are currently over-enrolled.

The university's policy is to make an allowance for a projected number of students who will drop out prior to Feb. 28, the last day they can do so without academic penalty.

"The tendency for students to 'go shopping' for the first two weeks of the semester further challenges the system's ability to allocate appropriate space," said Stevens.

He predicts the new buildings under construction, with their significant addition of classroom and lecture theatre space, are unlikely to provide much relief for these crowded conditions. This space, largely allocated to engineering and medicine, will be occupied by students entering those specific programs, rather than serving as general classroom space.

"The new buildings are really just a shell game," said Stevens, "and with the two per cent growth predicted for UVic's student population there is no doubt about it: I think we will still be way short of space."

English professor Mary Elizabeth Leighton, who has in the past had to fit 44 students in a room with 35 tightly spaced chairs, said that classroom size is really all relative.

"They imply that if you can fit 22 desks in the room, then 22 people can fit in that room," she said, "but then you can fit 22 people in a broom closet if you really try."

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Students easy target for counterfeiters

by Mike Oliveira, *Ryersonian*

TORONTO (CUP) -- It's late Friday night and you're at a dark, smoky bar, winding down after a long week of school. You fight for the bartender's attention, pay for a drink with a $20 bill, and quickly collect your change before slipping back into the crowd.

You don't know it yet, but that drink cost you a lot more than you realized. You've been passed a counterfeit $10 bill and have no recourse but to accept the loss, or face some very serious consequences if you try to pass it on.

Fake $10 bills have become the note of choice for counterfeiters these days and students have become a primary target, experts say. Denis Abbott, spokesman for the Bank of Canada, said students and clubgoers have become "easy marks" for counterfeiters because the dark atmosphere and the crowded, hurried pace of transactions in bars make it easier for fake money to be passed undetected. "We've seen an increase in what we call 'casual counterfeiting,' (which is) people trying to pass just a few bills at a bar or a corner store," Abbott said. "Bars are vulnerable because the lighting is often not as good ... and people aren't checking [a bill's] security features like they need to. "And sometimes the bars aren't vigilant enough in checking (either.)"

It used to be that counterfeit money was mostly a problem for merchants. Businesses have been scammed so many times by fake $50 and $100 bills that they stopped accepting them and the notes nearly disappeared from circulation. But now, counterfeiters are adjusting their strategies by mainly copying small bills. The problem, Abbott said, is that most consumers don't expect small bills to be counterfeit and assume only large bills get copied.

"When someone counterfeits a low denomination like a $10 bill they think they can pass it because no one ... thinks anyone would try counterfeiting a ten. No one thinks to check it," Abbott said. "Counterfeiting is (a crime) of opportunity. Our review is that people are trying to pass counterfeit tens because they don't think anyone's going to check them."

In 2001, the $100 bill was the note of choice for counterfeiters but that's changed dramatically, said RCMP Staff Sgt. Paul Marsh.

The $10 bill emerged as the most popular bill to counterfeit last year, accounting for 55 per cent of all fakes police found; the $20 bill followed at a 25 per cent frequency. Although experts say Canadian currency is among the most high-tech in the world when it comes to anti-counterfeiting measures, it took only months for new fakes to begin making the rounds after the newly redesigned $10 bill was issued in early 2001.

Now that the smaller fake bills are the most prominent on the street, students are more likely to get stuck with one. But for those victims thinking about trying to pass on a counterfeit bill, think again.

"It's a very dangerous game to play," said Marsh. The maximum penalty for passing a counterfeit note is up to 14 years in prison. "It's a terrible risk to take," added Abbott. "It's a serious crime and not something the bank, police or the courts take lightly. It's not something people should attempt to do."

Sgt. Robb Knapper of the Toronto Police said that if caught, the onus is on the individual to prove they didn't intentionally pass a counterfeit bill. He said victims of counterfeiting should immediately call police, who will pick up the bill, ask questions about how it was passed and start an investigation. "Normally we ask you to touch it as little as possible, so we can try to lift fingerprints and possibly get the person who originated the bill," Knapper said.

Police won't reimburse victims for their fake bill - no one will, said Knapper. But there is one "rare case" in which restitution is possible. It's unlikely but if a consumer can prove they received a counterfeit bill from the bank, a refund may be negotiated with the institution.

"It has happened. It's a case where someone makes a deposit and it gets cycled back into the system. But it's very, very rare," Abbott said.

UVic women celebrate

by Sarah Petrescu

The upcoming seventh annual UVic Women's Conference promises to provide a forum for women of all roles and from all departments to unite and celebrate women on campus. The conference, entitled "Celebrating UVic Women: Past, present, and future," is a one-day event organized by the UVic Women's Network.

Diana Nicholson, co-chair of the conference committee, emphasizes that the goal of the conference is to create community among women on campus.

"It's a chance for us to get together to talk about concerns and to put our energies behind initiatives that are important," said Nicholson.

Originally a project of the Women's Caucus, the conference was adopted by the Women's Network a few years ago. It has been a sure success, drawing nearly 300 participants every year. Nicholson believes a conference focused on women is still relevant and needed on campus.

"There seems to be a move on campus to integrate representation of women's issues with other issues," said Nicholson.

"For example, the women's advisor position that once existed is now being planned to exist as an equity advisor."

Nicholson claims there are some mixed emotions about the current trend of incorporating women's issues.

"Some women are less comfortable with it because they are wondering how well our voice will be heard. A part of me thinks that maybe its time has come, that it's appropriate," she said.

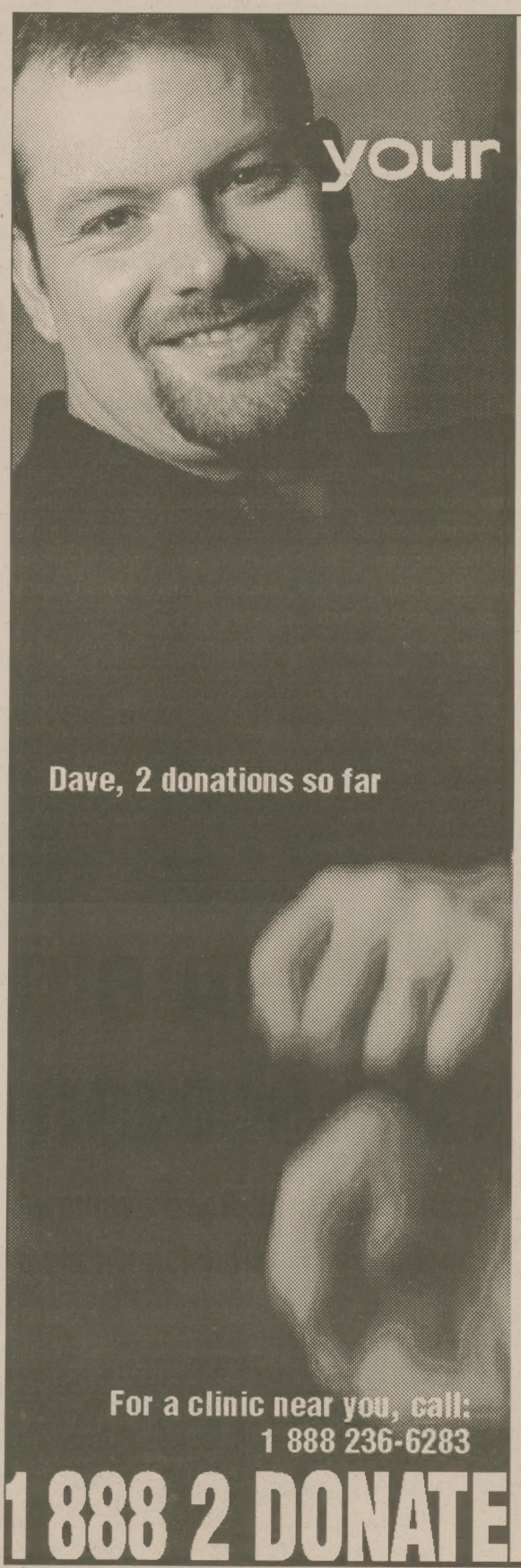
However, Nicholson maintains that the opportunity for women to connect and engage in discourse is invaluable to furthering equity. In the past, the conference has revealed issues of unequal opportunity for women on campus.

"Every year we do have some discrepancy about women not getting the day off from their departments to have a professional day," said Nicholson. "Women who have all the degrees and seniority can take the day off easily. But women working in support staff and service positions have had a more difficult time. It's really disheartening because they are the kind of women who never get to attend a professional development conference."

The conference itself will take a distinct approach this year. The diversity panel is a new addition and more time has been allotted to larger group work. The coordinators have also been determined to stick to the theme of celebrating women.

"We've tried to get away from all the ways in which women can improve themselves and their lives," says Nicholson. "With the theme of celebration, we need to make sure that we approach ourselves in a positive way rather than focus on our deficits."

The seventh annual UVic Women's Conference, "Celebrating UVic Women: Past, present and future," takes place on Feb.14. Deadline for registration is Feb.7. For info call 472-4131. Cost for students is $10, including lunch.



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Editorial

The battle for Endor

This play is presented as part of the Martlet Players' "Learning through drama" series.

(Four friends sit in a coffee shop booth.)

MARC: Hey, did you hear the news? The Ewoks won.

SUE: Who are you, Luke Skywalker?

MARC: No, I'm talking about the protesters in Cunningham Woods. They're up in the trees there, just like...

SUE: Like Ewoks.

JACK: Goddamn hippies. Haven't they got anything better to do?

BETTY: Cut the reactionary bullshit, Jack. It isn't helping anyone. And Marc, you're being naive.

MARC: Why? It's a total Ewok victory. They're putting a 10-year moratorium on cutting down trees at UVic.

BETTY: Slow down. You're jumping to conclusions like a drunken private eye in a bad film noir. All that's happened is the Campus Development Committee has *recommended* a moratorium. I'd like to quote Richard Marx, if I may.

SUE: Please do.

BETTY: "It don't mean nothin' till they sign it on the dotted line."

MARC: Ah Betty, you're being too cynical.

BETTY: Maybe. But even if they do follow through on the moratorium, we still have a long way to go.

MARC: I thought all we had to do was keep the bulldozers and the chainsaws out. Build on parking lots and all that.

BETTY: Yeah, that's a big part of it. And this talk about a moratorium is a good sign. It shows that at least someone on the CDC has been listening to what people are saying.

JACK: So what the hell are you still worried about?

BETTY: Neglect; slow decay; death by a thousand cuts. It's been happening for decades. UVic has never had any policy on natural areas. They don't understand how to manage them, or how building in the surrounding areas affects the ecosystems.

SUE: And yet development continues...

BETTY: Exactly. Erosion, water contamination, invasive species, disappearing wildlife, they're all symptoms of this knowledge gap. And it's not just UVic, either. This is happening all over the world, and has been for centuries.

JACK: But why should the university, or the world I guess, care what happens to these ecosystems? We're not talking about the Carmanah Valley. These are tiny areas in the middle of a city. They're too small to be ecologically important.

BETTY: Maybe, if you measure importance by size. But Jack, what are we at school for? It's to learn, right? These wild spaces are a tremendous educational resource.

MARC: Yeah! We've got a rainforest here. Most campuses barely have trees.

BETTY: That's right. But does the administration recognize it? Shit. After more than four decades at this spot, they haven't put together so much as a trail guide to get people interested in the forests.

MARC: You'd think we'd know better by now. Aren't universities supposed to be progressive?

BETTY: Last I heard. And UVic's got more than its share of experts. People are working tirelessly on development alternatives, doing ecological research, trying to find ways for us to balance human needs and ecological concerns.

MARC: Sounds like we've got a lot going for us.

BETTY: Yeah, things are starting to change. Especially when you factor in support from volunteers and the community. We have the potential to be world leaders here.

SUE: Well, I'm all for change. But I take my car to school every day. Where am I supposed to park if we put buildings on all the lots? Some people have to drive, you know.

BETTY: Sure they do. I'm not saying no one should ever drive. But Sue, how badly do **you** need to drive to school? Your house is only a 20-minute bike ride away, and you're already paying for the U-PASS in your student fees. You've got options.

JACK: I've heard enough. I love the forests too, but our needs have to come first. Society's changing. The university has to grow to make room for new students.

BETTY: And what do we teach them when they get here? That we should just mow down our forests because we can use the space? That's not the kind of attitude I want to send people out into the world with.

The group stands up and takes a bow.

ALL: This isn't about Cunnigham Woods anymore. It's about the land that supports us, and how we're going to support it. There are too many people in this world who don't respect nature; let's make sure the next generation does. Peace.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings (each Friday at 11:30 am, in SUB B011). Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

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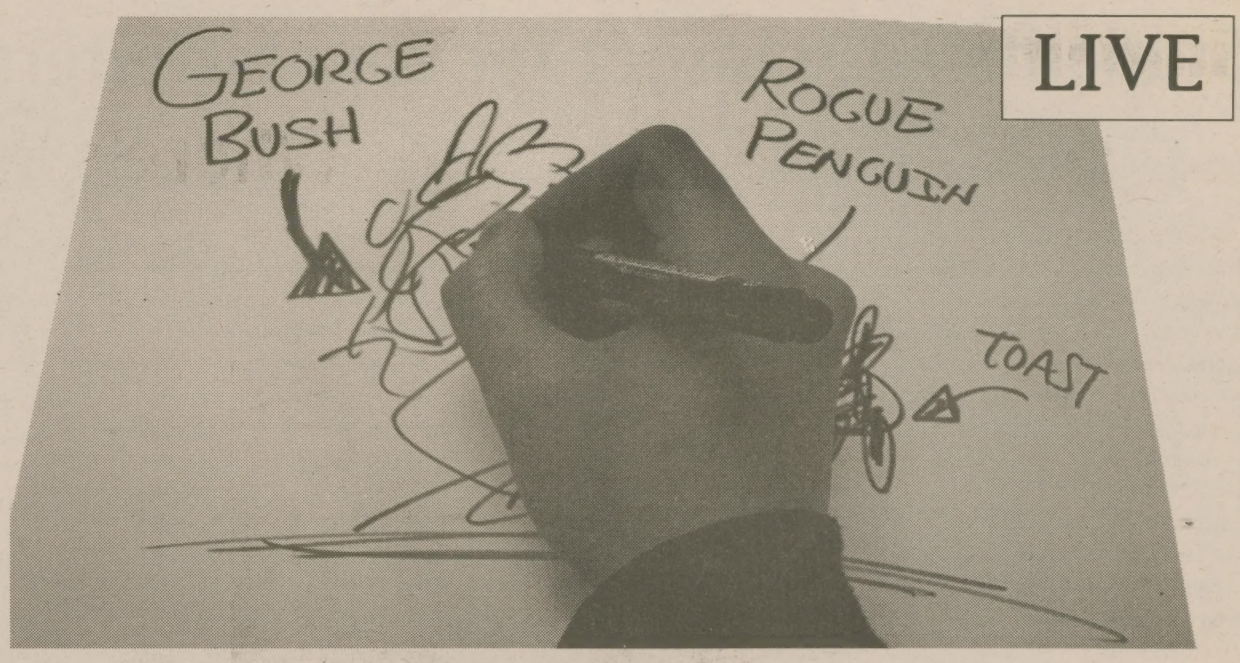

Due to technical difficulties *the Marltet* is unable to give you a finished Editorial Cartoon. Instead, we give it to you in progress...

Letters

YPY writes, part I

In response to the article "Campus Club Brings Pro-Life Speaker to Campus" (Jan. 30) we would like to clarify Youth Protecting Youth's objectives and activities as an on-campus student group.

Youth Protecting Youth is a group of students and young people who have mobilized in an effort to protect and champion the sanctity of human life.

As many students are well aware, the lives of a number of international people groups are currently being threatened. Often, it seems there is little we can do, especially when these threats present themselves in the form of war, or the uncontrolled spread of disease. Some however, can be tackled by providing more information about these threats, and challenging our contemporary beliefs surrounding them. We believe this to be true when dealing with the issues of abortion and euthanasia, thus these two areas have become our primary focus. As a club, we seek to better inform ourselves about the issues being faced by those involved in these practices, and to provide opportunities for other students to do so as well.

In saying this, we wish to be clear that our club mandate is not to pursue the criminalization of abortion service providers or clients. Instead, our goal is to better understand and identify the circumstances in which women choose abortion, and to advocate for a more holistic support system for women who find themselves in such situations. In doing so, we wish to work towards establishing a social support network for pregnant women, in which the alternatives to abortion are made so advantageous, that abortions are no longer needed or desired.

Thank you kindly for this opportunity to clarify our position.

Robyn Mogan and Nicole Porteous

YPY writes, part II

With the threat of funding being cut to the UVic family centre, I wish to express my sympathies for the staff and families affected.

As a member of the university community, I recognize the challenge that limited funding presents to women and families who are trying to complete their education while acting as parents. Cutting the family centre's services not only affects the families currently benefiting from the services, but also limits the options that women have when forced to deal with an unexpected pregnancy. In accordance with Youth Protecting Youth, a UVic pro-life club that advocates for better support and services for young mothers and families, we wish to show our support for the family centre and appeal to the University finance and operations board to grant their request for continued financial support to the family centre. If this university is serious about the well-being and success of its entire student population, then it is time it dealt with the obstacles and dilemmas that many students and families on our campus face. No one should have to choose between their families and their education.

Katherine Brach,
Acting president, Youth Protecting Youth

Lonely Planet backlash backlash

I'm sure the people of Thailand are very sorry the commodification and destruction of their culture ruined Joanna Wong's vacation ("Adventures with the not-so-Lonely Planet," Jan. 30). I wonder if you would have felt so guilty about being the exact same exploitative tourist if there hadn't been so many other foreigners around.

While I appreciate your honest criticism of the "Lonely Planet Empire" and the popularity of international backpacking, your article seems to suggest that its worst result is the ruin of tourism for us Westerners. We're running out of ancient hill tribes in the same way we're running out of vintage clothing or old growth forests?

Although you recognize the negative impact of unsustainable industry, it appears that you're still thinking of people as a natural resource for us to continue exploiting (just in a more sustainable way).

I'm not suggesting the answer is more Club Meds and less backpacking, or an end to international tourism, but maybe just a little more awareness of your impact on other people's lives?

James E. Rooney

Defending the campus plan

We are writing to address the significant attention recently received by students protesting against the removal of trees in the Cunningham Woods at UVic. Many students are in support of the new developments, and we feel the need to speak out against the widespread condemnation the university has received over past weeks.

According to the Draft Campus Plan (DCP), "less than one quarter of the campus is covered by buildings, paved roads, sidewalks, parking lots, and service areas." The developments outlined in this plan will enable UVic to cope with the increase in enrollment it expects in the near future as well as put a medical school on Vancouver Island.

At this point, only 10 percent of trees in Cunningham Woods have been cut down. A number of trees around the building site have been left standing so when the new Island Medical Building is in place, the visual aesthetics of the campus will not be compromised. It is clear in the DCP that the location of the new building has been chosen to minimize ecological impacts. In fact, the specific location adjacent to the Cunningham Building permits the new building to share resources, such as energy and waste disposal. Placing the building at an alternate location would be both inefficient and impractical.

According to the DCP, most of the Cunningham Woods will be developed in the long run to maintain the cohesiveness of the campus. It has been argued that, as a leader of "green policies," UVic should conserve the Cunningham Woods. It is interesting to note that UVic has pledged, in the DCP, to protect Mystic Vale and Haro Woods.

Throughout the entire DCP, UVic shows commitment in balancing both green policies and offering quality education equivalent to, or better than, other institutions. The reason for developing the Cunningham Woods instead of other locations is so all the science and engineering buildings are close to one another. It is evident in the DCP that UVic has carefully studied the potential environmental impact of removing the woods, and it certainly makes sense to build all the science and engineering buildings as a cohesive unit. One has to question the ecological role of a small forest alongside a high-traffic road and several buildings when compared to other forests and wetlands deemed environmentally sensitive and protected in section 2.3 of the DCP.

Another argument is that students and faculty have not had input into the decision making process. Activists claim that the democratic process has been compromised by the university. However, UVic has carefully chosen to include students and faculty in the new plans. That is why the decision on the site for the new building was made by the campus development committee, a 25-member body comprised of faculty, students, staff, deans, and vice-presidents. Furthermore, UVic students have been given ample opportunity to voice their opinions in several open forums. It is clear in the DCP that student opinions have been seriously considered. Therefore, as long as the university abides by municipal laws, a small proportion of the student population has no business attempting to dictate to the University where they should and should not build.

We are not disinterested in preserving ecologically sensitive areas, nor do we discourage thoughtful discussion about the development of our university. British Columbians currently face many issues that deserve our immediate attention and active participation in raising environmental awareness and concern. However, we feel that Cunningham Woods is not one of them.

Ian Ricketson, Jonathan Klassen, Lisa Willis, Trudi Johnson, Teresa Francescutti, Jennifer Peleshok, Steve Burgess and Fiona Christensen

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Space. Dude, it's, like, *the final frontier.* That's fine if this were *Star Trek*, but it's not. It's, like, a student newspaper. We don't like space. Well, not great chunks of it. Write for us. Please.

on the spot

Where's Waldo?

Search party: Rich Cole, Vanessa Neuman and Robin Platts, and introducing Craig Battle as Waldo

Jennifer Thomas
3rd year Psychology

Jennifer: *(laughing)* I don't know. In a storybook?
Robin: Okay. But if this was a picture, where's Waldo?
Jennifer: He's over there. The guy with the toque and the scarf.
Robin: That's right, excellent. What tipped you off?
Jennifer: He was standing there, looking kind of goofy. And I saw you guys taking pictures of him. I don't think you hid him well enough.
Robin: Yeah. We were hoping there'd be more people around but, with the tuition fee increases, there aren't as many people on campus.
Rich: Do you want to meet him?
Jennifer: Okay.
Robin: All right. Jennifer Thomas, meet Waldo.
Waldo: What's going on?
Jennifer: I'm shaking your hand.
Rich: Is there anything you've ever wanted to ask Waldo?
Jennifer: No. Not really. Sorry.

"If I ventured in the slipstream, between the viaducts of your dream. Could you find me?" Waldo blends in.

Jessica Ainsworth
4th year Biology

Jessica: I don't know.
Robin: Are you familiar with the *Where's Waldo* books?
Jessica: Yes.
Robin: Okay, where's Waldo?
Jessica: Right at the bus stop.
Robin: What tipped you off? The toque? The glasses?
Jessica: The striped shirt.
Robin: Interesting. Do you want to say hi to him?
Jessica: No, I'm okay.
Robin: Is it because you think he looks kind of goofy?
Jessica: I just don't know what I would say to Waldo.
Robin: That's understandable.

Claire Lane
On the Fringe

Claire: I don't know. Where is he?
Robin: Are you familiar with the *Where's Waldo* books?
Claire: Yes.
Robin: Okay. Where's Waldo in this picture?
Claire: Aah. Okay. I get it. He's right there. You guys did a good job. He looks like Waldo.
Robin: Yeah, he blends right in.

Student voice

Why I am in favor of the invasion of Iraq

by Richard Warnica

I should probably precurse this article with a number of affirmations: I am largely opposed to the politics of George W. Bush, I loathe Donald Rumsfeld, and I am not entirely convinced that Dick Cheney is A) human or B) alive.

Furthermore, I don't believe in the slightest the rhetoric tying Iraq to the "War on Terrorism," nor do I believe that the war party in the U.S. administration gives a tinker's fart about the plight of the Iraqi populace.

As far as weapons of mass destruction are concerned, I genuinely don't know whether or not Iraq has them. Neither does anyone else – outside of perhaps Hussein himself and possibly the higher-ups in the American intelligence community.

That being said, I am in favor of multilateral (if possible) and unilateral (if necessary) military action to depose Saddam Hussein.

I believe this for three reasons:

1) The human rights situation in Iraq is beyond deplorable. It is as bad as anything in Hitler's Germany, Stalin's USSR or Pol Pot's Cambodia. Atrocities, including the widespread use, for political purposes of torture, extrajudicial executions, rape and ethnic cleansing have been reported and affirmed by Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights, the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees, and other inter-governmental and non-governmental organs.

There does not exist a single credible source denying the wholesale violation of basic human rights in Iraq. Hussein's Stalinist use of repression to maintain power assures that this situation will not be rectified as long as he remains in power. Furthermore, the economic sanctions on Iraq, which have been the cause of so much suffering, will not be lifted before Hussein is deposed. That leads us to reason that,

2) Barring divine intervention, Hussein will never be internally deposed. Dissent, or even its vaguest rumor, is not only brutally repressed in Iraq, but also abroad. Exiled opponents of Hussein have received videotapes showing the horrific rape of their female relatives, with the implication being that further dissent will be dealt with in a similar manner.

The only domestic opposition to Hussein that has not been completely obliterated, the Kurdish enclaves in Northern Iraq, owe their existence exclusively to American military force. Without extra-domestic military interference Hussein's regime will remain in power indefinitely.

3) Whatever replaces Hussein – whether a U.S.-friendly dictator, a Hashemite king, or a puppet democracy – cannot conceivably be worse than the current regime.

At the absolute bare minimum, an American-friendly regime means the end of the sanctions, which means less starvation, less disease and less suffering. At best, you get a reliably benign government capable of exploiting Iraq's vast oil reservoirs to the benefit of the entire Iraqi population. Because the human rights situation in Iraq will never improve under Hussein, because he can never be deposed internally and because whatever replaces him cannot be worse than he is, I am in favor of the invasion of Iraq.

Nobel Laureate and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter recently said that although war is sometimes a necessary evil, it is always evil. I agree. Unfortunately, evil is the only language Saddam Hussein speaks.

photo provided

by Chantal Eustace, *Ubyssey*

VANCOUVER (CUP)

A cartoon-like vixen with a sleek black bob moves table to table with her tray of smokes. In a red tutu, a crushing black corset, striped knee-socks and a trademark round cap, she is the embodiment of Vancouver's neo-burlesque scene: whimsical, sexy, bawdy, young and stylish.

"As the cigarette girl, I get to be part of the scene without stealing the scene, if you know what I mean. I don't have to take anything off." Charla smiles mischievously, pulling at her red sequined bra-straps for emphasis. With that and a shiny black hair twirl, she curtsies and moves on (all to the beat of a 1950s surf instrumental).

MC Miz Adrian, the host of the evening, has teased us, told some naughty jokes and left us laughing. On the stage, a dancer begins to toy with the audience. The art of the tease is embodied in her every coquettish move as she begins her choreographed dance with slow and deliberate movements. Sixty pairs of eyes stare, enraptured, tantalized and, above all, entertained. My foot taps to the retro honky-tonk beat that the band, El Dorado, fills the room with.

Scattered throughout the dark hall, at unadorned candlelit tables, are groups of people of all types. A first-date yuppie couple, wearing head-to-toe Banana Republic, relaxes with their Coronas, occasionally tearing their eyes off of one another to watch the stage. A quiet table of three women in their mid-50s smile and watch the dance as their faces bob up and down to the rhythm. Two fashionable men in their 30s watch the show and occasionally whoop or clap to engage the dancer. Their cheers are matched by the boisterous enthusiasm of a stagette party. At the table to my left, a young girl with short red hair nurses a martini and occasionally checks her watch.

As I watch the dancer on stage, in her elaborate corset and stockings, my favourite jeans feel ridiculously dull, my white sneakers are glaringly devoid of spikey heels and the neckline of my black T-shirt is much too high. For a second, I feel inspired to put on some red lipstick, a short skirt and perhaps even shimmy. The sway of the dancer's crinoline skirt is alluring yet innocent. Yes, I think, I could do that dance. The women in the stagette cheer and clap as the music peaks. When the dancer slips out of her skirt and confidently struts around the stage in her g-string and tasseled pasties, I correct myself—I couldn't do that: that takes a lot of umph.

"You go girl," I applaud in my head. Neo-burlesque can make a regular girl like me want to invest in some fishnets – it's just the right mix of naughty and nice.

As the dancer's shoulders move to the music and her pasties sparkle, I am aware that there is a half-naked woman onstage shaking her "groove thing" and I am not at all offended. In fact, I'm filled with a kind of illicit admiration.

Over the past five years, Vancouver has become a mecca for the neo-burlesque revival in Canada. In fact, the Fluffgirls Burlesque, led by Cecelia Bravo, was the first-ever Canadian troupe to participate in Tease-o-rama, a burlesque extravaganza held in 2001. Cities like San Francisco, New Orleans, Portland, New York, Los Angeles and Boston all have active burlesque troupes, but Vancouver and Brighton, England were the only two cities outside of the U.S. to participate. As the Tease-o-rama Web site puts it: "The wild and wooly moves of Fluffgirls Burlesque will change your opinion of Canada forever."

Fluffgirls Burlesque and the Empire Burlesque Follies are Vancouver's two big burlesque troupes. The Empire Burlesque Follies boast Dimitri, Canada's only male burlesque dancer, and have performed on the second Saturday of each month at the Russian Hall, in the Kitsilano neighbourhood, for the past year. The Fluffgirls have also held their performances monthly at the WISE Hall in East Vancouver for the past two years.

Beyond these two troupes, many independent shows have featured burlesque performers, dancers and singers. In fact, over the past summer, burlesque shows seemed to be going on almost every other weekend. Individual burlesque performers have taken an entrepreneurial approach and can be found performing at a variety of events. For example, the Monkey Jam, held last month at the WISE Hall to support a local charity, was hosted by comedian and dancer MC Misty Vine, a former Fluffgirl and Empire Burlesque Follies dancer.

A girl-next-door in a tweed coat and tailored trousers sits outside a café sipping a non-fat latte and absently twirling her ponytail. Like burlesque, Charla blends innocent charm with a sexy edge through her mannerism and her personal style. Today she looks like a Harvard student, but on Saturday she was the cigarette girl at the Empire Burlesque Follies' Neverland Burlesque show.

"My first show? Golly, that's a tough one," Charla smiles and dramatically feigns searching her memory by rolling her eyeballs and squishing up her nose, ponytail doing somersaults. "I went to my first burlesque show at the Waldorf about five years ago. There was nothing like that happening anywhere. It was like a really great variety show."

Charla uses the term "golly" a lot and emphasises everything with dramatic gestures. Her smile is a magnet for small children and dogs, both of whom routinely stop to say hello.

The variety show Charla first saw featured Cecelia Bravo, known as the founder of Vancouver neo-burlesque. Charla found Cecelia and her show inspiring.

"I like to get all 'giddyupgussiedup,'" says Charla, laughing. "It embodied a lot of elements that I really like, all together. So many interesting people going to the show and checking it out."

Most importantly, as the cigarette girl ("They are chocolate cigars and cigarettes," Charla says. "Smoking can kill you."), she can be a sexier version of herself in a safe and fun way. "Every show someone asks me, 'when are you going to get up on stage?' But I am too shy. I couldn't do that."

Charla's closet is a wasteland of tutus, creations like her giant cupcake hat, corsets and crinolines – not a costume cemetery, more of an operating room where she takes from the old to create the new. The Friday before each show is a scramble to create a more original work of art to wear and she liberally dissects last month's costume if need be. For this tweed-by-day and tutu-by-night gamine, burlesque is a fun escape from the everyday.

Vancouver burlesque is "neo" because it revives what was, in its time, a far more controversial form of

Sneakers by day, stilettos by night

A LOOK AT VANCOUVER'S INNER SEX-KITTEN: BURLESQUE

entertainment. UBC sociology professor Dr. Becki Ross, an expert in burlesque and striptease culture between 1945 and 1980, knows much about the steamy side of Vancouver's past.

According to Ross, the original Vancouver burlesque scene saw "enormous police censorship battles" surrounding the State Theatre on Hastings Street. The burlesque hall was routinely busted because "the owners were seen to be staging lewd and obscene public exhibitions."

"It was often the dancers who were most vulnerable to that police censure," Ross says. "It was kind of institutionalised police intimidation because burlesque was staging the forbidden. Those taboos don't exist anymore."

Burlesque nowadays is hardly risqué when compared with some Hollywood films, music videos or even some television shows. Charla sums it up with a giggle and a snort, "It is a show to take your mom to!"

"What is fresh about neo-burlesque is that the dancers are kind of resuscitating classical burlesque but with a much more cheeky, self-conscious, humourous bent," Ross says with a smile.

Burlesque is sexy and it does feature women in an objectified manner, but it doesn't offend my feminist sensibilities in the same manner as professional strippers do. In neo-burlesque, performers are varied and performances can range from comedy acts to the traditional vaudeville undress, yet some overriding themes are distinguishable. Although there is no clearly defined set of rules, these are some common traits found in burlesque: dancers do not take everything off, there is live musical accompaniment, performers have various talents from dancing to stiltwalking to singing, costumes and props are ornate and original and the dancers embody a range in body types and styles.

However, Ross warns against putting burlesque dancers on a pedestal distinct from strippers.

"It is destructive, if not dangerous," she says, "to set up these hierarchies which will only re-inscribe the madonnas, who would be the neo-burlesque revivalists, with the whores (who are all too familiar with the whore stigma) – those dancers that perform in the commercial striptease industry."

The founder of Vancouver neo-burlesque, Cecelia Bravo, isn't a madonna, but she is a very nice girl. While Charla plays the saucy cigarette girl once a month in the Russian Hall, Cecelia is burlesque incarnate on a daily basis. On our blind date at a Starbucks on Robson Street, I tried to guess Cecelia's identity as I watched the passersby. Even amid all the lip gloss and tight jeans, it was easy to spot her. She navigated the coffee-hungry crowd effortlessly and with the poise of a movie star in five-inch black patent stilletos, fishnet stockings, a 1940s suit and perfectly curled long black hair.

Cecelia saw the lounge scene as an appetizer for a burlesque revival, but she spearheaded the movement on a whim. She bought an old record and felt inspired by the subtle rhythm and the sex appeal of the women pictured on the back cover. In 1997, the scene at the Waldorf Hotel had kicked off and sparked international interest in Vancouver – a burlesque show seemed like the perfect fit.

Since the first show at the Waldorf (the same show that inspired Charla to don her cigarette hat), Cecelia has organised and danced in dozens of successful burlesque events, including one last January at the Commodore Ballroom featuring megastar Dita Von Teese. Cecelia speaks of Von Teese, a recent Playboy cover model, with a sort of reverence, because "Von Teese has really made it." In the eyes of Vancouver's neo-burlesque fans, Cecelia is mythic in her own right.

She responds with authority when I tell her about Ross' study: "I don't like when people try to be too academic about burlesque," she says. "It is all about entertainment – plain and simple."

Cecelia, 31, was a full-time nurse before her current status as burlesque goddess. Initially, she felt pressure from her co-workers to conceal her alter ego. However, over the past five years, the mainstream media has worked in her favour through various portrayals of erotic dancers in film. Perhaps better still, Vancouver papers have cast a positive spin on burlesque. Although Cecelia could support herself as a burlesque diva and producer, she continues to work part-time as a nurse because financial independence allows her "to maintain artistic integrity and authenticity."

The Flufflgirls are heading out on a North American tour this month to share their groove with other cities and to see other dancers for inspiration. There is no question that burlesque has a worldwide following of avid fans and general enthusiasts. For the rabid fan, $75 US can land you Dita Von Teese's "worn" underpants or stockings. Her Web site, which sells the items, explains that, "each of these pieces is worn by Dita as one of her regular daily undergarments so supplies are limited. Some wear and tear may occur. Each piece or set will be sent to you in a sealed plastic bag with a 4 x 5 1/2 inch personalised photo included."

While Von Teese's Web site is proof that burlesque attracts a devoted niche audience, any 10 minutes of MuchMusic confirms the revival has invaded popular culture on a much broader level. The tongue-in-cheek sexuality celebrated by burlesque dancers is used in all corners of popular culture – especially in music videos and the styles of so-called pop divas.

Such artists as Pink, Christina Aguilera, Gwen Stefani and Madonna are examples of sexually confident women who have embraced burlesque style. Beyond adopting elements of burlesque, many of these same Hollywood stars have gone a step farther and actually participated in burlesque. Stefani and Aguilera, as well as Charlize Theron, Carmen Electra, Brittany Murphy and Christina Applegate, have all been guest dancers with the Pussycat Dolls, a troupe in Los Angeles. These are all wealthy and influential women who are obviously not dancing for the money.

"Are you interested in dancing?" Cecelia adjusts her beret casually and lifts her eyebrows expectantly. "With your blonde hair – "

"No," I interrupt her and giggle like a 13-year-old, shaking my head and waving my hand.

I must admit it's flattering to have the grand dame of Vancouver neo-burlesque scouting me and I ponder it all the way home. The women involved in burlesque are also inadvertently neo-feminists because they push the boundaries of feminine erotica while asserting their own sexuality in an unapologetic manner. And they do all of this while maintaining perfectly coiffed hairstyles and looking fashionable.

While I'm not running off to join any burlesque tours, I am joining Charla for a pasty-making party to get a jump-start on Christmas crafts. Tease-O-Rama in San Francisco hosted a pasty-making workshop and now Internet sites have popped up with simple step-by-step instructions to achieve instant "trampy" status. Rhinestones, tassels, bells, marabou, Smarties and a glue gun in tow, I will spread a little burlesque cheer to the women in my life this season.

At the Monkey Jam on Friday, MC Misty Vine pulls down her elegant dress and shows me her sparkling silver pasties. "They are just appliqué from Dressew – you use double-sided tape," she smiles and shimmies her arms. "The trick is that it is all in the shoulders."

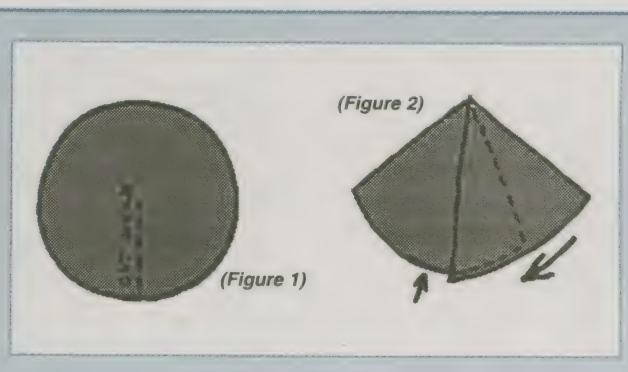
Makin' Pasties

Imagine small cone-shaped nipple covers decorated with leather, lace, or some other lovelies perched boldly on a fine pair of breasts. They sparkle in the light, twirl tassels, and ooh-lala, you've got pasties.

Pasties – the fine divider between naked and not - came into being as bare evasions of the censorship laws. Today, when baring skin is a little more appreciated, pasties have "stuck" around, adding that little bit of mystery to the human body. A little bit of classy peek-a-boo.

Easy to make and essential to any woman's – or man's – wardrobe, pasties bring the classic burlesque style into your own life. We show you the style - how you use them is your secret.

To begin with, cut a circle for each pasty – measure to your own nipple statistics, usually about 2" in diameter. This works best if the material is made out of heavy cotton, cardboard, leather, or buckram. Make a single cut to the center of the circle (Figure 1). Lap one of the cut edges over the other to form a cone (Figure 2). The cone shape - shallow or peaked, depending on preference - is secured by sewing or gluing. Once secure, decorate as desired with sequins, studs, or whatever you can dream up. When ready, attach the pasties to the breast with liquid adhesive (glue) or adhesive tape. With the glue, only a small amount is needed. Make one ring around the rim of the pasties, and another ring around the edge of the nipple. Dry until tacky, then attach pasty to skin. After they're secured - and *really check this* - go wild.



Local hip-hop takes on a Better Rhetoric

by Briony Smith

When my friend Tyler told me that he was in a hip-hop group, I had visions of a couple of white guys in hoodies lip-synching to Jay-Z in a basement between bong hits. This led to a re-education at the hands of Better Rhetoric, a local hip-hop band that incorporates live instruments with the traditional DJ/MC combo.

Better Rhetoric, formerly known as the Wizards of Rhythm, was formed in the summer of 2002 as a sextet composed of drums, keyboard, bass guitar, a DJ, and two MCs. They have played at various venues throughout Victoria and have opened for such up-and-coming Canadian hip-hop acts as Warsaw Pack.

I recently met with the members of Better Rhetoric, sans keyboardist Brad Pozin, to find out more about them. Better Rhetoric all agree that their instruments bring a unique aspect to their hip-hop sound.

Jason Trill, a fourth-year computer science student, plays bass guitar for the band. "It's really neat what we're doing with live instruments in hip-hop," he says. "Everything around town is just MCs and DJs. It is the mainstay of hip-hop music, but we're trying to do something different here." He adds that he is not downplaying the importance of the DJ/MC combination, but that "there is a lot more versatility in a live band situation where you have musicians creating the beat in real time."

Ian Erdmann, Better Rhetoric's drummer, says that the live, instrumental aspect of the band's sound lends itself well to originality. "We can improvise more freely. I think people can get into [music] a lot more if you can see them play."

Better Rhetoric has a wide range of influences, from the Bullfrog Band to Jurassic 5. Their sound mixes groovy funk and a more traditional hip-hop aesthetic. The lyrics, written by Tyler Rowe (a.k.a. Rowebot) and Benny Johnston (a.k.a Benny J.), deal with political issues, such as the inequalities that exist between First- and Third World countries. Better Rhetoric also has a number of songs with a more playful tone such as "Funky Cheeba" and "Level One," an ode to the pleasures of old-school videogames.

Their songs sample diverse sounds, like music from Super Mario World. Jordan Blake, a.k.a. DJ OJ, says that scratching and music sampling is integral to the hip-hop sound. "Without it, it's not hip-hop."

There seems to be a dearth of hip-hop groups in Victoria, but Trill says that, "While we have some solid acts like the Stir Fry crew and Sphere, there isn't much of a scene. I'd really love to see a bigger hip-hop scene in Victoria, and hip-hop groups that utilize live instruments like bass, drums, and keys."

Rowe, a third-year political science student, says, "Hip-hop is one of the last vital forms of music and doesn't ever really feel tapped or reproduced. A community like Victoria, with so many music lovers, would fully embrace hip-hop if it began to thrive."

"The hip-hop scene in Victoria has so much potential," Trill adds.

Rowe agrees wholeheartedly. "There is a hip-hop foundation that has been being built for the last five years in Victoria that will continue to be built on. We just want to be a part of it," he says.

Better Rhetoric's original sound and passion for good music make them a valuable part of Victoria's hip-hop foundation. And by the way, none of them listen to Jay-Z.

Better Rhetoric plays Lucky Bar, Sat. Feb. 8. $5. Early show.

photo by Briony Smith

Hangin' Tough: don't expect MTV antics from these boys, they're all about the beats and the biz.

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Thursday February 13 Cinecenta 7:00 PM
The cast of characters includes a fortune-cookie writer who writes malevolent fortunes, a blue-collar guy who seems to get punished for carrying out good deeds, a vindictive meter maid, a germ-phobic restaurateur, a man reduced to telephone customer service to pay his mortgage, and a cable serviceman convinced that a fortune cookie message has determined his future. They all rush about in a sort of collective neuroses, sometimes crossing paths, in their attempts to fend off debt, germs, suitors, self-doubt, and parking tickets. Ed Begley Jr's arm makes mysterious cameos.

On_Line
Friday February 14 Cinecenta 9:30 PM
Sunday February 16 Cinecenta 9:30 PM
John Roth is a shy computer nerd who hasn't gotten over being dumped by his fiancée. Together with his old college roommate, Moe, they start up Intercon-X.com, an adult web site, in their Manhattan apartment. Through Intercon-X, clients are connected to live, erotic chat sessions with Internet sex workers such as Al, a reclusive celibate, and Jordan, a gorgeous day trader.

Touch & Go
Sunday February 9 Capitol 6 Theatre 1 1:00 PM
Saturday February 15 Capitol 6 Theatre 6 9:15 PM
Halifax filmmaker Scott Simpson brings us his first feature with the fresh and funny Touch & Go. Darcy McManus (Jeff Douglas, aka Molson's Joe Canadian) is 28 going on 15 and has it all: a great circle of friends, boyish good looks and charm to spare and a carefree summer job as a tour guide in Halifax. But it's all coming to an end as his best friends move on to real careers, he gets his first gray hairs and his tour business starts to go under

The Sweatbox
Saturday February 8 Star Cinema 7:00 PM
Tuesday February 11 Capitol 6 Theatre 6 9:15 PM
Putting together all the elements of an animated feature film is a bit like alchemy: lots of experimentation with the end result, hopefully, being a singular hit. But sometimes, the formula doesn't come together as planned. The Sweatbox sticks its cameras into the warrens of Disney Studios to reveal the convoluted creative process involved in getting *The Emperor's New Groove* to the big screen with singer/songwriter Sting along for the ride.

Midnight Madness Film: Lucky
Get ready for a whole new twist on 'getting lucky' as we enter the littered house and twisted mind of cartoon writer Millard Mudd. Best Feature winner at the New York City Horror Film Festival 2002.

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InFocus: Spotlight on Italy
Not many film cultures have much on the Italians in terms of pedigree. To help remind us that Italy hasn't lost a beat on the world film scene the Victoria Independent Film & Video Festival presents: Respiro, Neapolitan Hearts, Beauty Queen Olivia and A World of Love.

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Dinner, friends: what more could you ask for?

by Katrina Sark

Donald Margulies' Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy-drama *Dinner With Friends* comes to the McPherson Playhouse this week, courtesy of the Vancouver Arts Club Theatre.

The play looks at modern-day relationships, depicting the lives of two couples, one of which decides to split up. What follows is an interesting insight into the human psyche, as the characters are pushed and pulled by their passions and fears and faced with their insecurities and imperfections.

Director Bill Millerd, whom Victoria audiences may recognize for his work on *Dial M For Murder*, has directed over 150 shows for the company.

Dinner With Friends *is playing Feb. 7 and 8 at the McPherson Playhouse.*

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Collective soul: Stir Fry serves it up at Lucky

by Rebecca Hudson Breen

It's Wednesday night and I'm in the loft at Suze Lounge, nursing my newly acquired steno and slightly nervous about interviewing Dimitri (aka Salamander), one of the founding members of the Stir Fry Collective.

Stir Fry is a label-defying group of six at the foundation of the underground hip-hop scene and now well into their fourth year. They deliver weekly doses of hip-hop to the masses at Lucky bar and have a rare sound that stems from their diverse backgrounds. They are also one of the first live acts I saw upon arriving in Victoria a year and a half ago.

The collective consists of four DJs – Merge, Phlo, Verse and Salamander, and two MC's – Just B and Demoe One. This week they are joined by NWNB, Ned Withers aka Infinite P and Nigel Brown (aka Rank), both from Calgary. The Stir Fry Collective have been importing talent for their weekly shows since their inception, playing host to such names as MC Kia Kadiri, Styles of Beyond, Rebecca Schoichet, Degree One, Choclair and many others.

Talking with Salamander before the show, I ask him about the Stir Fry Collective sound. Hard pressed to put it into one category, Salamander cites numerous influences. The sounds spinning to open the night included reggae, jazz and hip-hop. When asked about the possibility of a Collective recording, Salamander says it's something they've considered, but for now the focus is on the live shows.

"They're effective but not always efficient," he says, and their solo work testifies to the effort this group puts into supporting the underground scene. Merge has released the *Search and Rescue* compilation on his record label Eclipse, with Battle Axe Records. It features Moka Only, Swollen Members, Living Legends and others. Verse has put together a couple of mix CDs and was the '98 and '00 Vancouver Island DMC DJ Champion.

Salamander is an active partner in Atomique Productions Ltd., one of the most eclectic, respected, and dynamic producers and promoters on the West Coast. He says that although the Victoria scene is small, it is very strongly connected, and his enthusiasm is evident in his statement that "Hip-hop is a religion – it changes your perspective."

The Stir Fry Collective has also taken their sound on the road, having played Vancouver, Nanaimo and Tofino in the past and, more recently, several shows in the B.C. interior. Asked about the recent tour, Salamander admits it was successful, with people who have moved away from Victoria maintaining interest in the Stir Fry sound and the fan base widening. Stir Fry seem to be keeping it real and just getting better. Salamander says they are grateful everyone keeps supporting them and honoured to still be around.

On my way into Lucky to see the collective at work, I was stalled for a minute by the bouncer who asked me for two pieces of ID. I hadn't heard about the new law requiring such and apparently neither had the majority of fans, as many were turned away at the door throughout the night.

photo by Rebecca Hudson Breen

Just throw your hands in the air and wave 'em like you just don't care... The answer is rightguard my friend.

Consequently the crowd was thin and the MCs didn't hit the stage until almost one. This gave me a chance to check out the Stir Fry Collective merchandise hanging over the bar, from t-shirts to a little white thong with "Property of Stir Fry Collective" printed on it.

The DJs kept the beats flowing with tracks from De La Soul, KRS 1, Eric B and Rakim with plenty of mixin' and scratchin' thrown in with the jazzy funk sounds. I was glad to hear tracks featuring female MCs as well, proving that when Salamander told me that hip-hop in general "embraces women because it's about how good you are, not about gender," it's a philosophy they practice. In the coming weeks Divinity, two young female MCs fresh on the Victoria scene, will be joining Stir Fry every other Wednesday at Lucky.

While my night wasn't the best example of a Stir Fry Collective party, the beats were phat and the crowd was hype. The Stir Fry Collective is holding their own in the West-Coast hip-hop scene. They play every Wednesday night at Lucky bar.

Bern, baby, Bern: Swaying hippies dig Dan

by Ryan Harriot

It is not often that an artist as refreshing and compellingly iconoclastic as Dan Bern graces a Victoria stage. Last weekend, however, the Dylan-esque folk singer played for a mesmerized crowd at Lucky bar. Bern's poignant, poetry-for-lyrics style and biting sense of humour have garnered for him incredible word-of-mouth support here, not to mention a sold-out show.

Unlike Bern's last Victoria gig, the Iowa born musician played solo this time, his heavily nasal voice sailing clear over an audience speckled with hemp shirts, jutting goatees, and Steven Seagal ponytails.

It quickly became apparent that, onstage, Bern is in his element. Improvisation is a cornerstone of his performance, to the point where a more hardcore fan might have been disappointed at the lack of material from his four full-length albums. Audience participation was also key – the enthusiastic masses chiming in to save several dead-end lines or to lend their voices to a rousing chorus. Of particular note were Bern's abilities as an impressionist, showcased in an amusing ballad exploring the possibilities for a fifth member of the Beatles, ranging from Yoko Ono to Bob Dylan to Kurt Cobain.

It wasn't all fun and games, however. Many of Bern's songs contain obvious political messages, contrasted sharply with a general sense of North American lethargy. One verse in particular stands out: "The falling of the two towers was the worst atrocity ever committed on American soil/Wait, what about the Indians?/What about one hundred years of slavery?" Another song accused "President Dubya" of hating brown people, a statement that, ironically, elicited much laughter from the crowd. Looking around, I saw one brown guy standing in a swaying sea of white hippies.

One can only hope that, in our world of mass-produced radio and engineered stars, music as unclassifiable as Dan Bern's can continue to find its way into hearts and minds everywhere. Even if that audience comes with terrible haircuts.

photo by Dennis Kleiman

"You with the ponytail – you wanna go? Yeah, I'm talkin' to you, hippie."

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Indie film fest mixes the dirty, beautiful and Italian

The upcoming Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival showcases new and raw films from indie filmmakers throughout the world and includes a strong roster of Canadian talent. This year, the festival will take a special focus on Italian film and the works of filmmaker Bernardo Bertolucci. The following are a few sneak reviews of some of the films being shown at the festival.

by Briony Smith

Want
Michael Wohl
U.S.A.

When I received the preview tape of Michael Wohl's film *Want*, the scrawled writing on the label looked like it actually said *Wart*. I confirmed that it did indeed say *Want* and breathed a sigh of relief at not having to watch two hours of a boil being lanced in the name of indy film art. After watching *Want*, I wish that it had been a movie about warts, because it probably would have been less repellent than *Want*.

Want takes place during the dot-com frenzy of the late '90s, so I assumed that it would be your standard alienation yarn of the Everyman, seething with pathos, who cannot function in a world where everything is so phony and painful in its synthetic squalor.

Wohl runs with this standard indie film plotline so far from the standards of good taste, good film-making and good entertainment that he is left wallowing in the wasteland of uber-angsty shit that is this film in all its grainy digital-video wretchedness.

The bare outline of the plot is that Trey is stuck in a boring engineer job and yearns to strike it rich by cashing in on the dot-com boom. His life is vacant and meaningless. Trey fills his time by getting handjobs in a massage parlor, blowjobs at a rest stop, sexually harassing and stalking a co-worker, and attempting to rape his recently deceased father's girlfriend in her sleep. He also enjoys masturbating (onscreen, twice) to kiddie porn.

Wohl attempts to show how society makes up for its lack of meaningful experience by indulging in extreme sexual activities. This film does not fulfill this idea. We are supposed to empathize with Trey, but instead I found myself despising him – and Wohl for making this awful film.

Want *plays at the Capitol 6 Theatre Feb. 8 at 9:45 p.m. as part of the the VIFVF.*

by Sarah Petrescu

Respiro
Emanuele Crialese
Italy

Italian films have a way of extracting beauty out of dark and despairing stories. Often set in the rural poor regions that characterize much of Italy, they evoke the passion and freighted love present among people who have very little. *Respiro*, a new film by Emanuele Crialese, is no exception.

Set on a blisteringly hot and impoverished island in Sicily, *Respiro* tells the story of the unpredictable Grazia and her ostracization from her community. Grazia is a free spirit and threatening to the traditional norms that govern her family and small town. Her impulsive and volatile nature provokes her young sons to constantly need to protect her. Her husband does not know how to deal with her. Eventually, Grazia's defiant nature shifts the relationships in the film towards a mystic and symbolic plane. The result is a film with echoes of chaos, love and pain, brilliantly expressed through stunning symbolic underwater scenes and an eerie musical score. *Resprio* is a haunting film, yet satiating in its depths of destructive and unconditional love.

Respiro *plays Thursday, Feb.13 at Cinecenta, at 9:30 p.m.*

Beauty Queen Olivia
Federica Martino
Italy

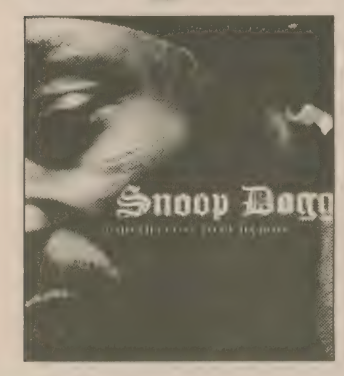
B*eauty Queen Olivia* is a disturbing, yet entrancing, coming-of-age story set in 1970s Rome. Olivia is an abused and neglected teenager who reels with hatred and destructive behaviour. However, she finds some hope in her dream of becoming a rock star. Although she is no more than 15, Olivia definitely fulfills the rock star persona: she wears a leather jacket and combat boots, smokes, drinks, plays guitar, and ditches school.

Olivia is a social outcast until she meets Lilli – a pretty-in-pink teen with a serious Olivia Newton-John obsession. Together, they seek to find a better life for Olivia by searching for her birth father and escaping the cycle of abuse she faces at home.

Carolina Felline's portrayal of Olivia is fierce and convincing. The film makes no concession to sentimentality or tragedy; it is frank, stark, and often frustrating. But it is also balanced by humorous and joyful moments, which juxtapose the everpresent sadness of the main characters.

Beauty Queen Olivia *plays Friday, Feb.14 at Cinecenta, at 7 p.m.*

Gangsta Rap isn't dead - it just deserves to die



by Mike Tomlinson

Snoop Doggy Dogg
Paid Tha Cost To Be Da Bo$$
Capitol Records

If you're about getting paid and getting laid, then here is an album for you.

The Doggfather and his mellow snarl are back, creeping out on 20 soon-to-be-forgotten tracks about the finer points of being a big pimp, having lots of money, and of course, disrespecting bitches. Snoop seems to be trying to promote himself as the "Bo$$ Playa" for the new "Mackallenium," with the end result being a lot of really tired, weak, clichéd raps about, well, not a whole lot, really.

Snoop has a track for every occasion on this album. The ever pressing problem of hos getting out of control is dealt with simplicity and tact on "Wasn't Your Fault": "You shoulda smacked her black."

Miss one of your hos? Maybe you even fell in love with her? Snoop comforts all those lonely players on "I Miss That Bitch." I don't really think I need to get into what "Lolipop" is all about. Actually, I'm done talking about the lyrics altogether, since the truckload of guest appearances only serves to take the level of dialogue way lower than anything the Doggfather could have accomplished on his own.

Probably the biggest piss-off about this album is that it could have been great – as an instrumental album. There are a couple of great tracks produced by the Neptunes, most notably "Beautiful," while "Batman and Robin" has DJ Premier having fun with the old *Batman* theme. Most of the other beats are of the funky West Coast variety, from whiny synths to clean piano riffs, all over addictive bass lines. But production alone can't carry this album, and it's too bad that people might actually be buying it to listen to Snoop trying too hard. Maybe he actually is a pimp, and maybe he lives the life that he raps about. Question is: who cares?

N.W.A
The N.W.A. Legacy Volume 2
Capitol Records

The simple fact that there are *two* volumes of this garbage in existence is way beyond my comprehension.

Who the hell buys this shit?

Wait, that's not fair. Who knows, maybe someone's grandmother got hopped up on her blood pressure medication, slipped in the bathroom reaching for the toilet paper, cut a huge gash into her head on the nice white bathroom tiles, was discovered comatose by the nursing home staff, and after being rushed to the hospital and stitched up awoke dazed and drunk on Demerol only to wander out of the hospital and find her way home.

Mistaking the pounding music from a nearby record store for some long lost fetal heartbeat memory, she stumbles towards the "Urban Music" section.

"That car looks like one I used to drive," she thinks. Looking at the front cover of an album, and putting the CD in her purse, she heads for the exit, forgetting her fetal heartbeat memory, since the song just changed to Shania Twain.

"Uh oh. That music reminds me of the music they play at the home to put us to sleep. I gotta get back for nap time!" Even the shrieking of the store security system cann't distract her from this new imperative, nor can store security pouncing on some unsuspecting 13-year-old from Orangeville who just wanted to see Christina Aguilera's panties.

How she gets home is not something I'll bore you with, but the voyage involved a green lawn flamingo, an ex-con convicted for smuggling Cabbage Patch dolls, a truck of cooking oil, and the world's longest Slip n' Slide. Did someone say furry handcuffs? No, no one said anything about furry handcuffs. Oh. Sorry.

Anyway, she returns home and pops the CD into her stereo, pulling out the liner notes as she does so. "Witness the Strength of Street Knowledge," she reads on the inside cover. Seventy-seven minutes and 51 seconds later, all she has learned is that the strength of street knowledge seems to be about bedding a lot of "bitches" and killing a lot of "niggaz." She ruminates to herself: "Why does 'Chin Check' start with a sample of some poor woman getting murdered while she's on the phone with the police? And what's so important about being hardcore? I wonder if we'll have the strawberries with the chocolate sauce for dessert tonight."

Taking the CD out into the hall with her she puts the liner notes in the birdcage, and shuffles away to find someone to tell about her day's adventure. "Elsie? You in there? Look what I brought you! A nice new pretty coaster!"

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FAMOUS PLAYERS

photo by Jenn Bowles

From the looks of it, there was quite a row last Sunday in the McKinnon Gym.

Erg overkill

Madness in McKinnon as rowers pass out

by Simon Corman

Rowers took to the McKinnon Gym hardwood last Sunday at the 18th annual Monster Erg National Indoor Rowing Championships. The event featured hundreds of athletes competing in individual and team events, attempting to qualify for the Indoor Rowing World Championships taking place in Boston later this year.

The Monster Erg originated as a fundraiser for the UVic Rowing program. Dozens of brand new Concept-2 rowing machines are brought in and sold at wholesale prices before, during and after the competition to various rowing clubs, schools, and individuals. Over the years, the Erg has grown in popularity for both athletes and spectators alike, while continuing to provide funding for the Vikes.

"It's a good test to see where rowers stand individually in what is usually a team sport," said UVic women's rowing coach Rick Crawley, who has coached the women Vikes to six consecutive CIS championships. Vikes rower Tricia Gill considers indoor rowing more of a mental game than outdoor rowing, and feels isolated without her teammates.

In total, 22 races took place, with the most anticipated coming in the 'Senior A' women's category. The 2000m race featured former University of Washington basketball star turned rowing sensation Carly Halpenny, who won the event easily, qualifying for the world championships with a time of six minutes 40.2 seconds. Michelle Fritz was the top UVic rower, finishing in 21st place. Camosun's Matt Mcarthy scorched the field in the 'Senior A' men's event, with a time of the day at 6:15.5, while UVic's Ruarie Carthew finished a mere seven seconds behind. Several rowers fainted after completing the race - evidence of the intense level of competition. The most serious incident required Campus Security and paramedics to assist in stabilizing an unconscious athlete

"[The Monster Erg] is always exciting because of a great crowd," said Gill. Attendance was estimated to be over 1500, all closer to the action, as no body of water separated fan from athlete. Judging by the enthusiastic response from both spectators and athletes, the Monster Erg will no doubt continue to grow in popularity.

And with some U.S. and European rowers now training and competing exclusively indoors, could the outdoor sport be on its way to obsolescence? Will computer chips replace fiberglass? We can only watch, from a distance.

Vikes hoops: a never-ending math equation

by Mark Samcoe

Women

"How do you compare apples and oranges?"

Brian Cheng, Vikes women's basketball head coach, hands me a sheet with Relative Power Indicator (RPI) statistics and explains the breakdown. The RPI is a ranking system used by the CIS to determine national championship seeding. Although the CIS nationals aren't for another three weeks, the RPI is still relevant. It indicates how CIS teams are faring. Twenty-five per cent of the RPI value is a team's winning percentage, 50 per cent of their opponents' win percentage, and 25 per cent of their opponents' opponents win percentage. According to the RPI, the Vikes have had one of the nation's toughest schedules, which means their 17-8 overall record – 12-6 in Canada West play – has huge merit. Enough for a fourth place RPI ranking (0.595) on paper.

Confusing? Hell yes.

Of course, the numbers that matter most are of the scoreboard variety; buckets supercede complex math.

For the women, fresh off a split with Winnipeg last weekend, the completion of their regular season this weekend, versus the U of C Dinos is complicated: a game of numbers, if ever a sports cliché needed resurrecting. Following all Saturday games across the Canada West conference, the dust around the regular season standings will finally settle. Playoff match-ups, at long last, will be visible.

Although the Vikes currently sit second they could finish as low as seventh, depending on the outcome of their two-game series.

"That's a reflection of how much parity there is in the league," says Cheng. "If we stand still there are teams that will catch and surpass us."

Although Calgary sports an equal record in CanWest play, the RPI places them 22nd (0.492) because of the lighter schedule, for one.

"They're a good team," says Cheng. "We have to respect them."

The Dinos, boasting solid perimeter shooting and interior strength, are coming off two easy wins over Trinity Western last weekend.

The Vikes will look to Lindsay Anderson, Jania Mynott and Dani Everett to push Calgary to extinction. The Vikes' backcourt, allowing the second fewest points, is another apple of the conference's eye.

"We're playing well," says Cheng. "You've got to give a lot of credit to the girls; they worked with conviction, with a vision, a goal in mind to be better."

Saturday night will also be fifth-year guard Anderson's final regular season game, as she will be graduating this spring.

If the Vikes finish in second or third spot, they'll host a best-of-three series at home next weekend in the postseason's first round. Regardless of where they play, they play to win.

"I always go in expecting to be successful," says Cheng. "We're going to get it done."

Men

"We're out of the playoffs."

Head coach Guy Vetrie describes the fate of the men's basketball team (7-11), who will miss the playoffs for the first time in ? years. The Vikes hoped, after dropping their match last Friday against Winnipeg 75-60, that a Saturday win combined with a second-straight victory by Regina over SFU would push them into the postseason. Unfortunately, SFU's 82-77 win over the Rams eliminated the Vikes from championship contention.

"It's disappointing," says Vetrie, "but they learned a lot. They've come a long way."

Indeed, it's been a steep curve for the Vikes this season, negotiating a young and oft-depleted roster through a strong Canada West conference loaded with veteran U of A and UBC lineups.

"Injuries before Christmas devastated us," says Vetrie.

Goals were reduced from hosting the playoffs, to simply making them.

"[There were] a lot of close games," says Vetrie. In total, UVic lost six games by less than five points.

Vetrie promises a strong finish despite the season's early end.

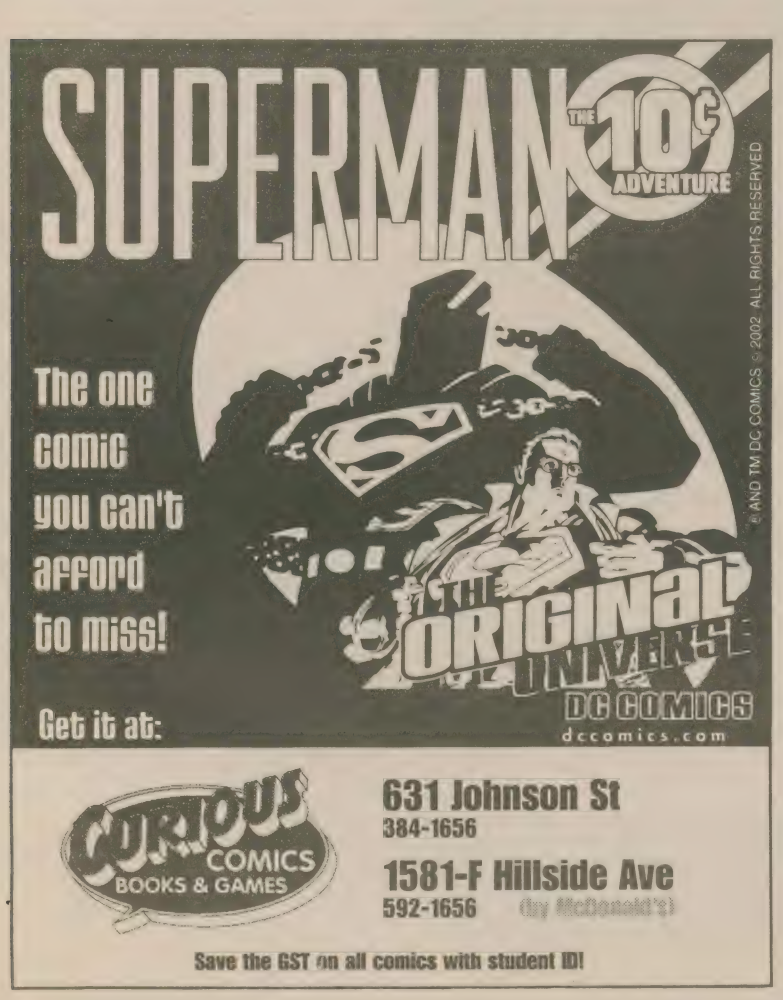
"We want to finish well. These are our playoff games."

The 2002-03 season wasn't without its signs of optimism, including the ascendent play of first years J.R. Bailey, Steve Moore and Tylor Hynd - the latter who nursed injuries early in the season but has since posted strong numbers. With the core of the team returning next season, including the outstanding backcourt cast of Chris Marsh, Chris Trumpy and Shaun Doherty, the stage appears set for the Vikes to dominate.

"It doesn't feel like a losing season," says Vetrie.

For Vetrie, his absence from the postseason is an altogether new experience. Vetrie hasn't missed the playoffs with a team since the 1983-84 season.

"Next week, what'll I do? It's tough to deal with," he says. "It gives me an early start at recruiting. I'll be working on next year's team."



Cross Country Vikes peak in Winnipeg

by Mark Samcoe

Craig Babiuk set the pace for the Vikes cross country team last weekend with two first-place finishes at the Cargill Indoor Games in Winnipeg.

Babiuk posted great times at the weekend event, in which six Vikes set personal bests, and nine top-10 finishes were recorded.

"We've got a solid team," said Babiuk, a fourth-year kinesiology major.

In one half of his double-gold performance, Babiuk set a meet record in the 1000m race. He also took gold along with Josh Henderson, Rob Connors and Scott Kennedy in the men's 4x800m, posting a seasonal best time.

Babiuk wasn't surprised by his results.

"I was happy with it," he said, "but it was off my personal best."

Babiuk had been looking to rebound from a disappointing showing at January's Sled Dog Invitational in Saskatoon, where he pulled out of the 1500m race – traditionally his best distance.

"I just didn't feel psychologically sharp," said Babiuk. "I just cracked under the pressure, I guess."

In the last two seasons, Babiuk has taken gold in the 1500m at the Canada West championships, and bronze at the national championship meet.

This year, thanks in part to his recent performance in Manitoba, he won't settle for third best.

"It was a good confidence builder," Babiuk said of his individual showing.

Babiuk and his Vikes teammates are looking ahead to the Husky Invitational in Seattle next weekend, followed by the Canada West Championship in late February in Edmonton.

Babiuk's albatross, the CIS Championship, runs March 14 and 15 in Windsor.

Vikes Sports this Week

Basketball
W vs. U of C @ McKinnon Gym Feb. 7 & 8 @ 6:30 p.m.
M vs. U of C @ McKinnon Gym Feb. 7 & 8 @ 8:15 p.m

Rugby
M. vs Brit Lions @ Wallace Field Feb. 8 @ 2:30 p.m.
W. vs James Bay @ MacDonald Park Feb. 8

Cross Country/Track
Husky Invitational @ Seattle Feb. 8

photo by Vanessa Neuman

Intramurals. Volleyball. Monday night. McKinnon Gym. Fun was had by all. How much fun? Ever skinned your knees to the bone trying to set an errant pass? Oh yeah. It was like that.

All-stargazing reveals western supremacy

by Ruth Knoop

January and February offer some of the best weekend television than any other successive months. If it's not an awards show (the Golden Globes, the American Film Institute's tribute to Skeet Ulrich), then it's bound to be a sporting event.

With the NFL's SuperBore now behind us, it's time to focus on the ever-exciting NHL and NBA All-Star weekends. Packed full of non-stop action, these weekends consist not only of games where the best players in the league step on the court or ice to face off against each other, but they also showcase the finest in individual skill. When all is said and done, it's sure to be a great weekend or two. Or is it?

Last weekend, the NHL's best took to the ice in Florida for the 53rd annual All-Star Game. Television coverage began on Saturday afternoon with the Junior All-Star game – highlighting the league's up-and-comers. The abbreviated 30-minute match was, in a word, boring. Thankfully, each period proceeded almost uninterrupted, except by the constant goal scoring. In the end, the Eastern Conference proved to be the only winning team from the East all weekend, slaughtering the West 8-3.

Immediately following the junior escapade, the "fun" began as the "senior" All-Stars took to the ice for the Skills Competition. British Columbians could not help but be proud when three Vancouver Canucks stepped on the ice. However, that pride would soon be swallowed as Markus Naslund, Ed Jovanovski, and Todd 'Bad Boy' Bertuzzi failed to score in the three-on-one competition.

The oft-quoted theory, "the West is Best," was reiterated as the Western Conference won every Skills event except for Tampa Bay's Martin St. Louis' puck control victory over Shark Teemu Selanne.

The West's winning ways continued as they triumphed in what may be considered one of the most exciting all-star games in recent memory, and perhaps for all-time. Throughout the game, the score never favoured any team by more than a one-goal lead, and most of the time, it reflected a tie. As soon as one team registered a go-ahead marker, the opposition was quick to break even. At the end of 60 minutes, the score was 5-5. A short five-minute overtime occurred, and when that failed to produce a winner, the game was sent to a shootout where the West scored three goals to the East's single point.

This year's MVP, Dany Heatley, of the Atlanta Thrashers, scored four goals during regulation play, and one in the shoot-out, placing him in the record books alongside the likes of Gretzky and Lemieux, and as the youngest player in All-Star history to earn a hat-trick.

One can only hope the on-ice excitement will carry through to this weekend, as the boys from the NBA take to the floor in Atlanta for the 52nd All-Star Game. Don't cross your fingers.

Controversy has already risen, as players like Karl Malone continually refuse to play in the game. Why? It's supposed to be an honour to play in the All-Star Game, right? Only the best from the league make it there (way to go, Steve Nash!). So why won't Malone play? Some boys get tired from the weight of their multi-million-dollar playing schedules, so they use this weekend as down time. Or so they say.

Tracy McGrady volunteered his starting position to Michael Jordan, Vince Carter refused to do the same, which sparked an uproar. Why? The All-Star team is based on merit. Currently, these two lads are beating Jordan out on the court, so why shouldn't they get to start? Good old MJ is sitting back, saying he's happy just to play. He doesn't need to start. How humble of his Airness. Jordan has had his chance as a starter in the all-star game many times already. Carter and McGrady were chosen first for a reason. Let them play.

And let this sacred weekend in the world of sports occur without further controversy.

May the West again prove to be the best!

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Tuesday, February 11 - *Simon Fraser University*
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Sporting life beyond compare for Pasquale

photo provided

by Luke Lin

Don't bet on Eli Pasquale watching this weekend's NBA All-Star Game. The former UVic men's basketball star prides himself on his protecting the ball and zipping accurate passes to teammates during his long and celebrated career. A far cry from the NBA's annual exhibition, which features not only the league's brightest athletes but also lackluster defence, endless behind-the-back passes, and selfish individual improvisation.

"I'm sort of a purist... I like strategies, the game and how it's played," said the 42-year-old.

Nowadays, Pasquale, who played on Canada's 1984 and '88 Olympic teams, preaches that same enthusiasm at his youth basketball camps located across Vancouver Island, which are open to boys and girls aged 6-14.

"My biggest concern is whether the child is comfortable and that they're getting some type of enjoyment out of the game," said Pasquale. "If they feel comfortable and are having fun then they're going to develop some skills."

Pasquale, who's married with two boys, also juggles his time as an accountant at Acura of Victoria.

"It's a nice learning situation," Pasquale said of the experience with Acura. "It's a great livelihood, and because it's family-run, I do have lots of flexibility."

He met his wife of 19 years, Karen, during his final year at UVic. Although he tries not to push their two boys – Isiah, 14 and Manny, 11, toward a career in basketball, he admits that if they took that route it would be great.

But ultimately, he just enjoys being a father.

"He's completely family driven now," said Canadian icon Ken Shields, who coached Pasquale from 1979-84.

"He has a whole set of different priorities."

Led by Shields and Pasquale, the Vikes owned university basketball in Canada from 1979-86 – a stretch of seven straight titles that still stands as a record today. Pasquale was the starting point guard during the first five championships.

"He had such high standards for himself," said Shields of his young star. "He hated to lose. It didn't matter if it was an exhibition game or conference game."

Shields recalled a Vikes' practice session during Pasquale's first-year when the team ran laps around the track. According to Shields, the skinny point guard crossed the finish line second to veteran Ian Hyde-Lay. The result upset Pasquale to the point he never finished second again.

"It was an exciting time," said Pasquale. "I was the only rookie on the team in '79 but the people on the team, especially some of the more veteran players, made sure that I was a part of whatever was going on. The other good thing was I got to start and run the show."

In addition to the Vikes' success, Pasquale also received a number of prestigious individual awards. He was selected first-team CIAU Men's Basketball All-Star three years in a row and was the recipient of the MVP, Mike Moser Memorial Trophy during the 1983-84 season.

That same year, in the fifth round, the Seattle Supersonics chose Pasquale in the NBA draft. The '84 draft was the same one that brought Michael Jordan to the NBA. Pasquale would go on to play with Jordan and the Bulls the following year.

"I expected to be drafted but it would have been nice to have gone a little bit earlier," said Pasquale. "Seattle was a good situation because they needed guards."

After only playing in one pre-season game, and despite having a strong camp, Pasquale was released from the Sonics.

"You can talk to Tom Chambers, Jack Sikma, and people like that who were veterans (on the Sonics) and they'll say that I had an exceptional camp," said Pasquale.

So what went wrong? Why wouldn't Seattle want a talented playmaking point guard from the Pacific Northwest to run their team? Pasquale said it was politics.

In the second round of that same draft, Seattle picked a 6-foot-3 guard Danny Young from Wake Forest. Despite Young's inferior talent, Pasquale was cut on the sole basis that the former was drafted three rounds earlier. The Sonics didn't want to risk the ridicule from other organizations for wasting a second round choice. Young was released shortly after.

"This is what's so funny," said Pasquale with a sarcastic grin. "Les Habegger (assistant head coach of the Supersonics at the time) said 'Yeah, you were better than him (Young), but you weren't way better than him."

The next year, Pasquale's persistence led to a tryout with the Chicago Bulls. Once again he played well during training camp but the Bulls were Jordan's team and he knew it.

"Chicago was a team that needed guys like (Jim) Paxson who could hit open jumpers," said Pasquale. "So when I did get cut, I really wasn't surprised. Playing with Jordan is great, but with Jordan, they (the Bulls) didn't need a point guard."

Nevertheless, the opportunity to practice with Jordan everyday for a couple of weeks enabled Pasquale to witness Jordan's incredible work ethic.

"I gained respect for him," he said of Jordan. "He was in his second year but he always gave it everything he could in practices, even when the veterans weren't."

Pasquale ultimately gave up on his NBA pursuit, and by 1986, he was competing for Canada in the World Basketball Championships. Two years later, he led the Canadians to a respectable sixth place finish at the Seoul Olympics. Although the Canadians didn't earn a medal, he holds fond memories of their preliminary contest against an American squad stacked with future NBA stars such as David Robinson and Dan Majerle.

"It was a great game in the sense that we played the way we had to play," said Pasquale of the match-up that the U.S. eventually won 76-70. "The game was pretty well tied with about two minutes left and it was really in our favour because they couldn't hit an outside shot. Unfortunately, Dan Majerle hit two shots down the stretch that gave them a bit of a cushion."

As much as he would have liked an Olympic medal, Pasquale regards the opportunity for him to view life in a broader perspective as the most indelible aspect of his Olympic experience.

"It was such a wonderful thing to see all these different athletes from all parts of the world," he said. "I love the world and I love traveling. I love other cultures. I just think it's fascinating."

Pasquale spent a few seasons playing for a professional club team in Argentina. He retired from the sport in 1992, but returned five years later at the age of 37 to play on the Canadian national team, in hopes of drawing attention from professional teams in Europe, specifically Italy. He eventually received an offer by a club team in Sienna, but he declined.

"In some ways I regret the fact that I turned down what at that time I thought wasn't enough money but it was probably decent," he said. "That sort of ended my career."

Looking back, Pasquale said he should have gone to the CBA (Continental Basketball Association) where he could have developed his skills while possibly attracting interest from other NBA teams after being cut from the Bulls.

"Being on your own and being young, I didn't see things in the way that they could be," said Pasquale of his decision to forego the CBA. "And that's my fault."

But he doesn't want any sympathy. He's accustomed to making independent decisions and has learned to deal with them. Even as a child, born and raised in the tiny blue-collar town of Sudbury, Ontario, his parents weren't supportive of his interest in basketball but he chased his dream anyhow. They perceived basketball as simply a recreational hobby and not as something that could lead to a "real" job.

"I love my parents and we were very close, but I didn't play sports to have anybody come and watch me," said Pasquale.

By grade nine, he was spending six or seven hours a day working on his skills during the hot Sudbury summers.

In grade ten, Pasquale would often bike up to the University of Laurentian after school to scrimmage with the older boys. Sometimes he wouldn't come home until 11 p.m.

Now five years removed from the game, Pasquale said he misses the competitive aspect of basketball. Although he loves his current job at Acura, he said that it doesn't compare to stepping on the court.

"People are always asking me if I love my job, and yeah I do, but you're trying to tell somebody who has had this deep, deep, passionate, intense thing, that you can't compare it. There's nothing that [can] compare to it," he said.

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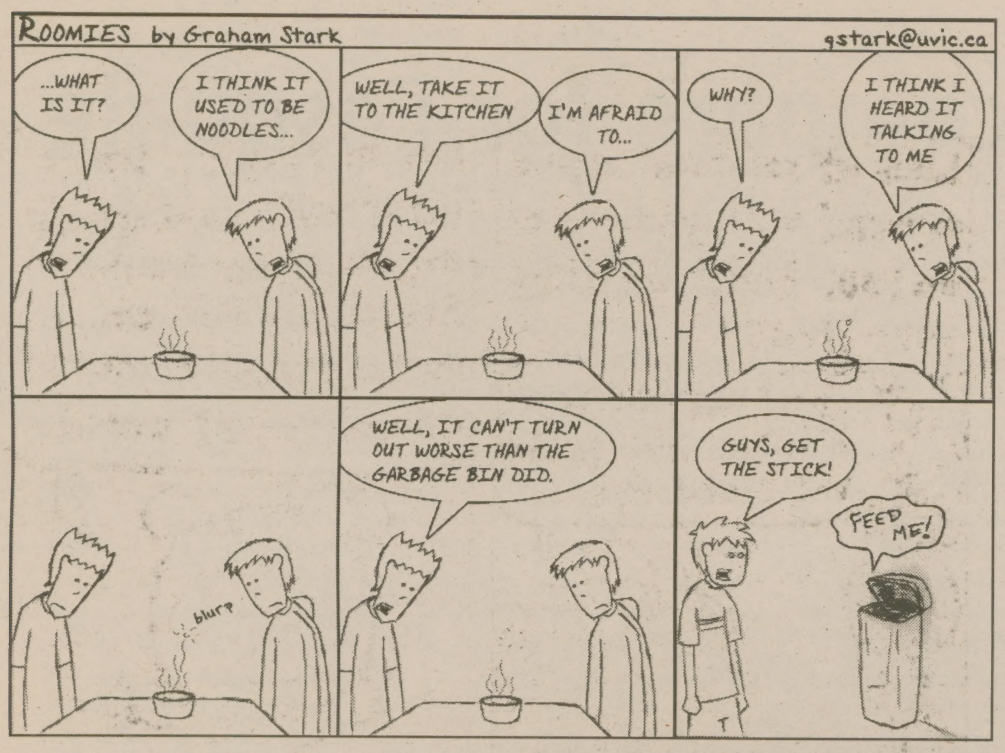
ROOMIES by Graham Stark
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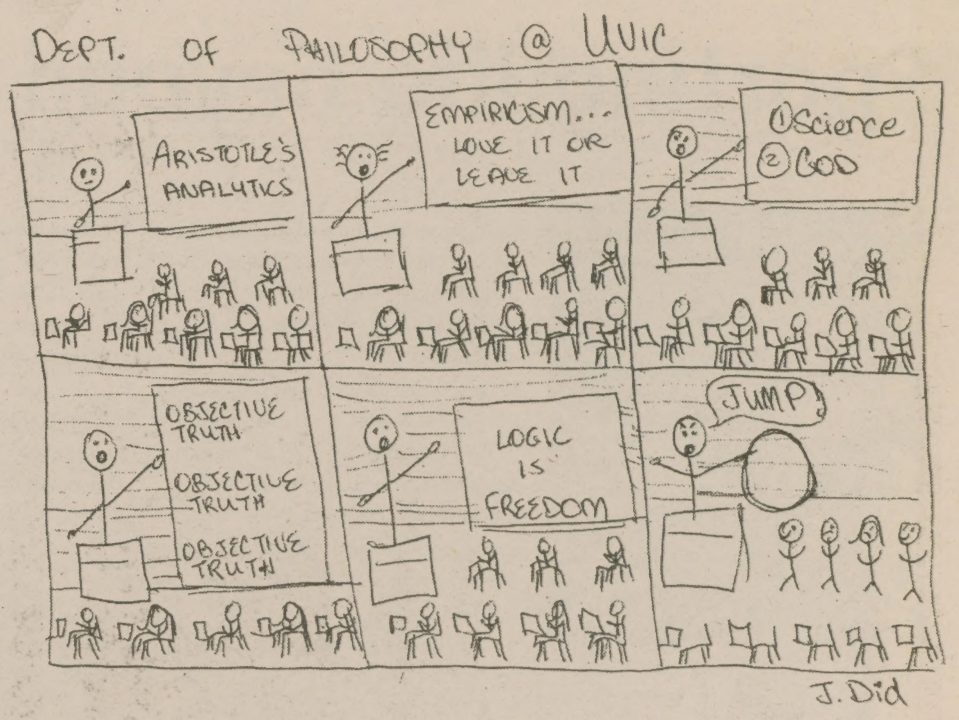

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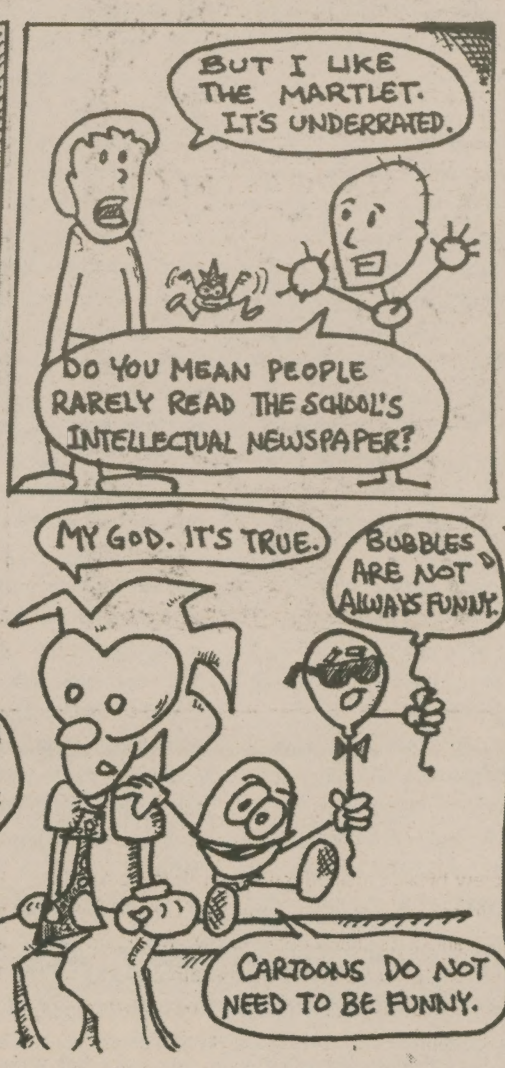
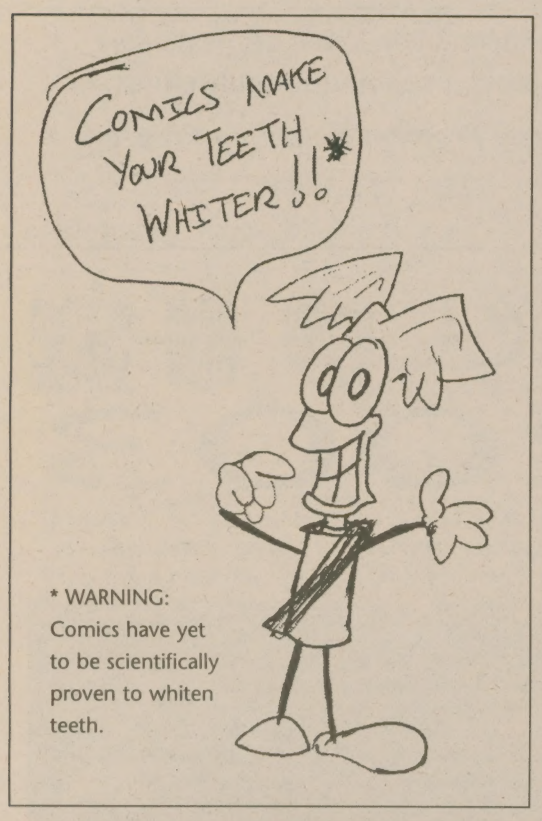
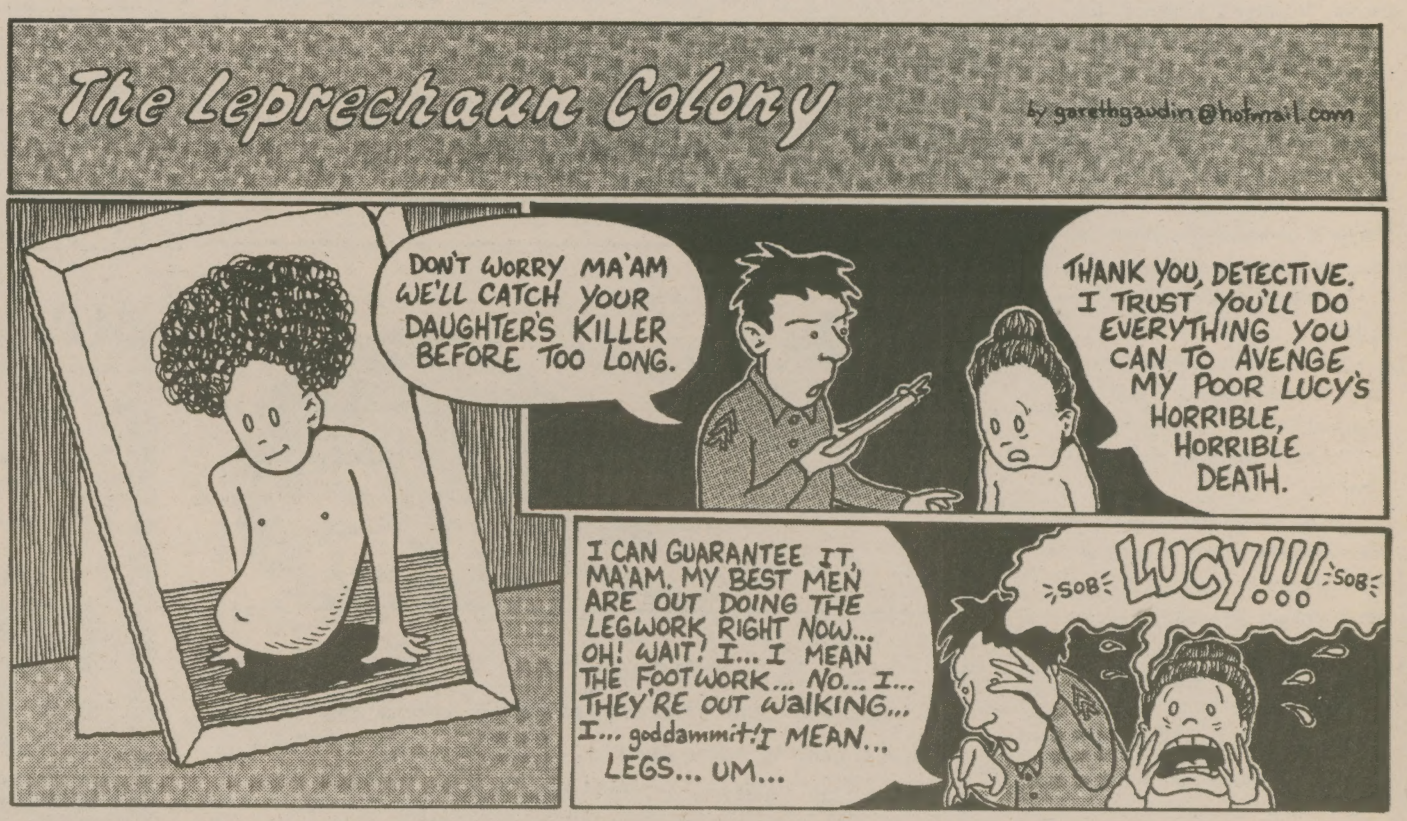
"THIS ISN'T FUNNY. HOW DO WE GET OUT?"
CHOMSKY
AS YOU CAN SEE, IT TAKES NO GENIUS, DON'T MAKE ME SPELL IT OUT TO YOU: ITS PROFICIENT ABSURDITY.
FOREIGN POLICY!
He He He He He!


BUT I LIKE THE MARTLET. IT'S UNDERRATED.
DO YOU MEAN PEOPLE RARELY READ THE SCHOOL'S INTELLECTUAL NEWSPAPER?
MY GOD. IT'S TRUE.
BUBBLES ARE NOT ALWAYS FUNNY.
CARTOONS DO NOT NEED TO BE FUNNY.

NO. STUDENTS HARDLY APPRECIATE POINTLESS, CHEAP, AMATEUR IDIOCY-- AND ITS PRODUCED WEEKLY.
BLAA.
COMMON FORMULA:
STEP 1: State Ridiculous Problem
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH PANTS?
STEP 2: FILLER & Garfield Jokes
Burp
STEP 3: Incomprensible Punchline
WHAT'S FOR DINNER?




The Leprechaun Colony
by garethgaudin@hotmail.com
DON'T WORRY MA'AM WE'LL CATCH YOUR DAUGHTER'S KILLER BEFORE TOO LONG.
THANK YOU, DETECTIVE. I TRUST YOU'LL DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO AVENGE MY POOR LUCY'S HORRIBLE, HORRIBLE DEATH.
I CAN GUARANTEE IT, MA'AM. MY BEST MEN ARE OUT DOING THE LEGWORK RIGHT NOW... OH! WAIT! I... I MEAN THE FOOTWORK... NO... I... THEY'RE OUT WALKING... I... goddammit! I MEAN... LEGS... UM...
SOB LUCY!!! SOB

"If you were a laser you'd be set on stunning."

Here's a line you've looked forward to hearing: Martini Cocktail specials are back at Moxie's every Thursday. Stunning prices. No cheesy lines.

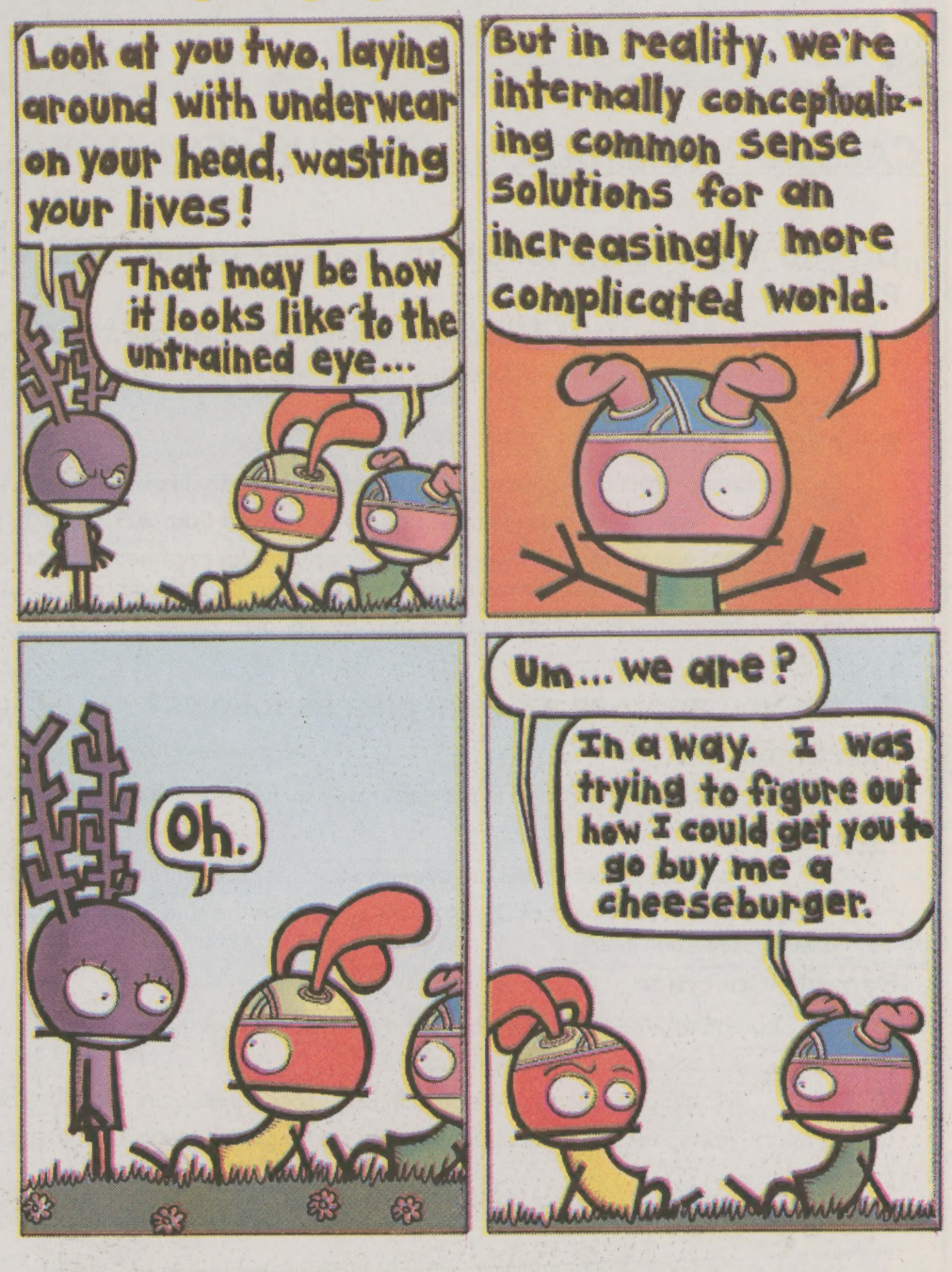
1010 Yates Street. 360-1660

LIFE IS CALLING
Moxie's CLASSIC GRILL®
www.moxies.ca

SAM & FUZZY
©2003 BY SAM LOGAN.
WWW.SAMANDFUZZY.COM
Sigh
WHAT'S WRONG, SAM? OH WAIT... A BOOK. YEAH, I HATE THEM, TOO.
HMM? OH, NO. I JUST BOUGHT THIS. I WAS TRYING TO ASK OUT SUZZANNE, THE CLERK AT THE BOOKSTORE, BUT I CHOKED.
THE BOOKSTORE? SAM, SAM, SAM.
YOU'RE NEVER GONNA FIND A GOOD GIRLFRIEND AT A PLACE LIKE THAT. CAN'T YOU FIND SOME CHICK WHO WORKS AT A PORN STORE OR SOME SORT OF FETISH SHOP? OR GEEZE, AT LEAST SOME PLACE THAT SELLS DIRTY--
HMM... ACTUALLY, WAIT A MINUTE. WHAT KIND OF A BOOKSTORE WAS IT? LEMME SEE THAT THING YOU BOUGHT.
IT'S A COOKBOOK!

The Gogmagogs

by Jamie Armes (CUP)


Look at you two, laying around with underwear on your head, wasting your lives!
That may be how it looks like to the untrained eye...
But in reality, we're internally conceptualizing common sense solutions for an increasingly more complicated world.
Oh.
Um... we are?
In a way. I was trying to figure out how I could get you to go buy me a cheeseburger.

Billboards

on campus

***Bioloco* biology undergraduate newsletter** accepting submissions, articles, events and any extraordinary biology news! Deadline: Feb. 28. Contact hhermane@uvic.ca. Volunteers and artists needed.

McPherson Library Information Commons Now Open. Students are invited to use the new Information Commons computers in the McPherson Library Classroom (Room 130). These computers offer access to the Libraries Gateway, the Internet, and MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Do your research, write your papers, and save, print or download your work. The Information Commons is open 7 days a week whenever the Library is open. Only caveat, the Classroom MUST be vacated when Library Instruction classes are being taught. A sign outside the Classroom door gives classroom availability each day.
See you all there!

ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT DAY: Feb. 13th. Want to learn more about your ecological footprint? ESSA (Enivronmental Studies Students' Association) invites you to enjoy a day of events outside the SUB including a garbage art-sculpting contest, speakers, eco-hikes with UVic's Sustainability Project, and an eco-fair from 10:00 – 3:00 with local businesses and environmental groups from around Victoria.

UVic Amnesty International and practicing Falun Gong members in Victoria would like to cordially invite you to attend a traditional art exhibition by the artist Zhang Cuiying. Zhang Cuiying uses her art to raise awareness about the human rights abuses taking place against Falun Gong practitioners.
The exhibition will be displayed on February 12 at UVic in the small Michèle Pujol Room from 10:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Opening reception from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

New bicycle lockers have been installed on campus, so now is your chance to wheel into the affordable luxury of your own bicycle locker: private, protected, reserved, weather-proof parking for your two-wheeled friend. Visit the SUB Infobooth or phone 721-8355.

off campus

Traditional Karate lessons now available to UVic students at discount rates. Train with a certified instructor and learn the ancient art of Shito-Ryu Karate. Our goals are to increase your physical abilities, your self-defense skills and make sure you have FUN doing it! Excellent facilities at Planet Fitness/Women Zone (Shelbourne and McKenzie). Call Kit: 886-5120.

An exciting and affordable way to explore Chinese culture, language and life in China. Teach English conversation classes four hours a day in exchange for a FREE stay in the scenic West Lake City of Hangzhou. Improve your Chinese language skills. Meet Chinese teachers and students and have an unforgettable summer in 2003. Date: July 11th to August 11th, 2003.
email: culturalhorizons@telus.net
http://www.geocities.com/workstudychina2003

The Armed With Understanding Lecture Series presents: "Resurgence of the Indigenous Warrior Spirit." Taiaikake Alfred, PhD – Mohawk writer, scholar and activist. Thursday, Feb. 13, 2003. 12:30 p.m., Cinecenta. ALL ARE WELCOME. Free of charge, discussion to follow.

accommodations

Needed: One roommate to share house with two others. All appliances, hardwood floors, close to UVic/groceries/bus. One unfurnished bedroom available Feb. 1, 2003. $350 plus utilities per month. Shaw Internet, TV available. Bryn, 472-2796.

Heritage Fernwood House looking for third roommate. Queer-positive, pro-feminist environment complete with sauna! $425/month available March 1st. 598-5918.

announcements

Fine Arts Gala 2003: The fine arts gala will be featuring the art opening of "Hot Box," a magic show, video screenings, live performances from various fine art departments, local DJs, and refreshments. Opening will be Thursday, Feb. 6 from 7:30 - 10 p.m. in the Visual Arts building at UVic. For more information, contact Justin at justinmuir@mac.com

Power Pussy and Wonder Cunt proudly present: THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES. Feb. 13, 14, 15. 7p.m. David Lam Auditorium. Tickets $10 - $20 sliding scale on sale at the UVic Bookstore. All proceeds from the show will be donated to our three beneficiaries: The Kwagluith Urban Society, The Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre, and PEERS. V-DAY. UNTIL THE VIOLENCE STOPS!

help wanted

Summer Camp Counselors on-campus interviews for premier camps in Massachusetts. Positions available for talented, energetic, and fun loving students as counselors in all team sports such as tennis & golf, waterfront and pool activities, and specialty activities including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newspaper, rocketry & radio. GREAT SALARIES, room, board, travel and U.S. summer work visa. June 21st – August 17th. Enjoy a great summer that promises to be unforgettable. For more information and to apply: MAH-KEE-NAC www.campmkn.com (Boys): 1-800-753-9118. DANBEE www.danbee.com (Girls): 1-800-392-3752. Interviewer will be on campus Monday, March 3rd – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Student Union Building (Michèle Pujol Room).

Student Works Painting needs a few outgoing part-time workers. Appr. 4 hrs/week for three months. Email: mramos@uvic.ca

TEACH ENGLISH Overseas: Jobs $$$ guaranteed. Great pay. TESOL Certified in 5 days in-class (or online or by correspondence). Attend a **FREE** info seminar. **FREE** infopack: **1-888-270-2941** or **www.globaltesol.com**

hey you

So I heard that this beautiful woman was talking with a fish on the phone. She said that she's happy she finally realised she's alive. The fish just smiled.

I have taken to swearing, Fantasia. Shit. The one thing the kids can remember you saying is "Pottymouth," so that's what they say when I swear. It gets annoying. God does it get annoying. Come home and teach us a new word. We are so boring without you.

Ursulata. Hope your birthday at Monty's was as titilating as you desired. Um. This year will be good. And remember: well-behaved women rarely make history. You go on with your bad self. Ow!

There are two kinds of people in the world. Those who want me, and those who want me *bad*. You want me. You know it. Nate.

Mel! Do not answer his calls!

Billboard Rates

students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines + $2/extra line
hey you!	free!

UVSS UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA STUDENTS' SOCIETY UVSS
Referenda Question

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE YES/NO SIDE ON THE FOLLOWING REFERENDUM QUESTIONS:

1. Do you approve the following changes to the UVSS extended health plan?

Plan Rate

- The plan rate per student shall not exceed $10.15 per month (or $121.80 per year) for the year September 2003 to August 2004.
- In future years, the Board of Directors may increase the rate to cover inflation and increased plan use, but the monthly plan rate per student shall not exceed $12 (or $144 per year).

Benefits Coverage

- For September 2003 to August 2004, the health plan benefits will increase to include
  - 80% coverage for prescription drugs (increased from 70%), and
  - 80% coverage (increased from $10 per visit) for paramedical practitioners (physiotherapist, chiropractor, podiatrist/chiropodist, naturopath, massage therapist, speech therapist, and psychologist) to a maximum of $500 per year for each practitioner (increased from $225).
- In future years, the Board of Directors may modify plan benefits to suit students' needs and minimize cost to students.

2. Do you approve a dental plan as follows?

Plan Enrolment

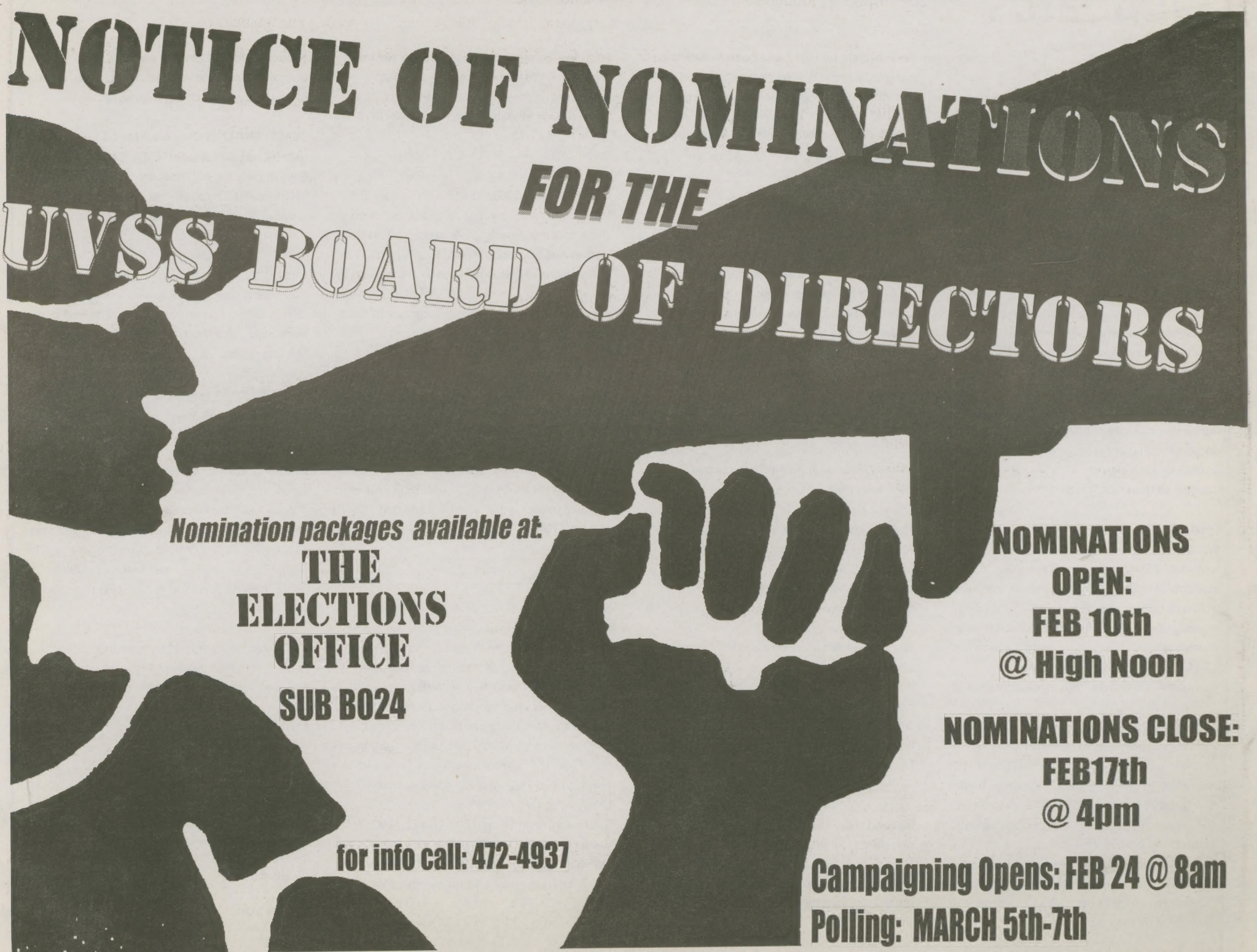
The dental plan would be provided in the same way as the extended health plan. Students with equivalent coverage would be able to opt out.

Plan Rate

- The plan rate per student shall not exceed $9.85 per month (or $118.20 per year) for the year September 2003 to August 2004.
- In future years, the Board of Directors may increase the rate to cover inflation and increased plan use, but the monthly plan rate per student shall not exceed $12 (or $144 per year).

Benefits Coverage

- For September 2003 to August 2004, the plan would cover 70% of
  - a basic checkup every 6 months,
  - fillings, extractions, endodontics (e.g., root canals), and peridontics (e.g., scaling, root planing) with a plan maximum of $500 per year.
- In future years, the Board of Directors may modify plan benefits to suit students' needs and minimize cost to students.

3. Do you approve of an increase in membership fees of

- $0.50 to the UVic Sustainability Project to fund on-campus sustainability initiatives; and
- $0.50 to the UVSS Food Bank to supply UVic students with emergency food resources in the Student Union Building.